editor's choice

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VIZ Graphic Novel

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Blue Spring

Taiyo Matsumoto's *Blue Spring* is a short story collection focusing on the lives of a small group of disenchanted high school students. Although spring usually connotes the blossoming of new life and a time of nurturing and anticipation, the spring for these characters is "blue." They can't wait for school to end and the summer to come. Their lives are balanced on the edge of a knife as they flirt with crime and their own deaths in the form of a deadly rooftop game. Each character has a different story to tell and the rebellion, questioning and frustration of these youth ers palpable

Taiyo Matsumoto is the cult-favorite artist of *Black* and *White* and *No 5* both published by VIZ. With linework that mirrors his storylines, in a combination of smooth and rough styles, his work makes for a truly unique look and feel in manga.

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This book reads from right to left.

RATED M MATURE

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青春 BLUE SPRING™

by Taiyo Matsumoto

Blue Spring

Editor's Choice Edition

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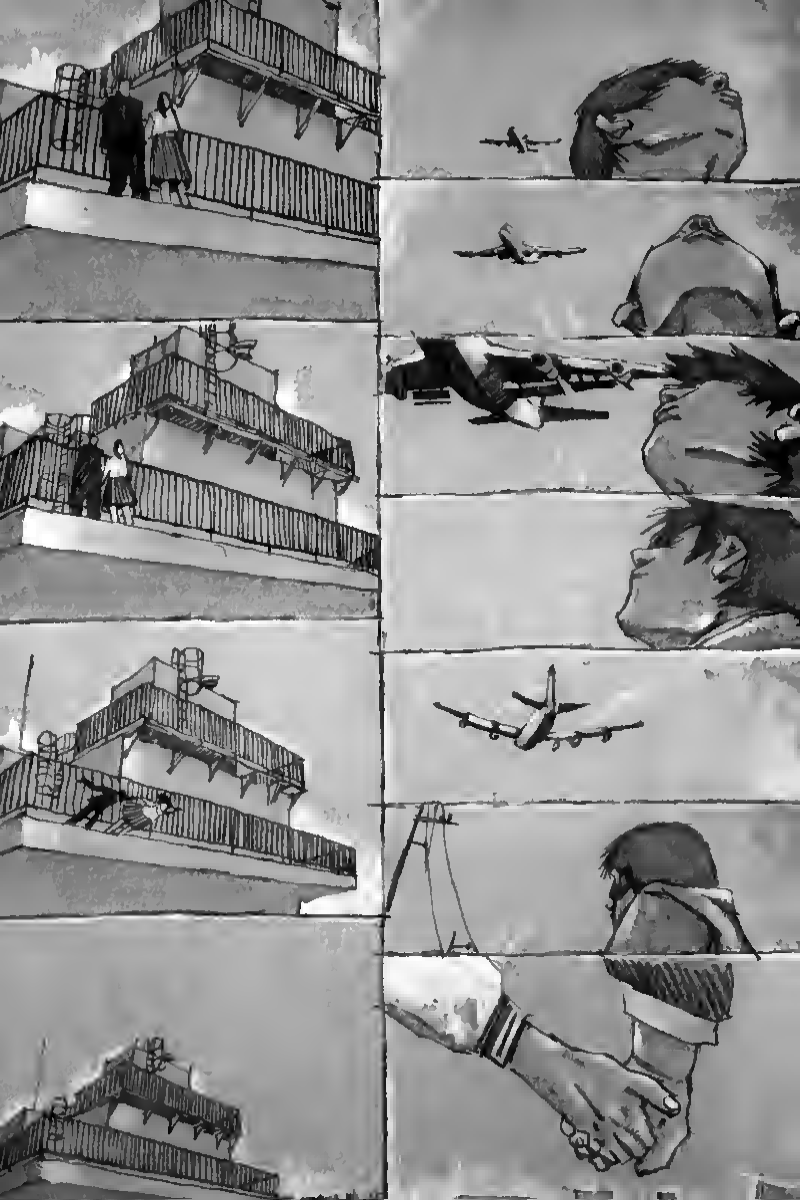
PARENTAL ADVISORY
BLUE SPRING is rated M for Mature.
Recommended for ages 17 and up. Contains strong language, sexual themes and realistic violence.



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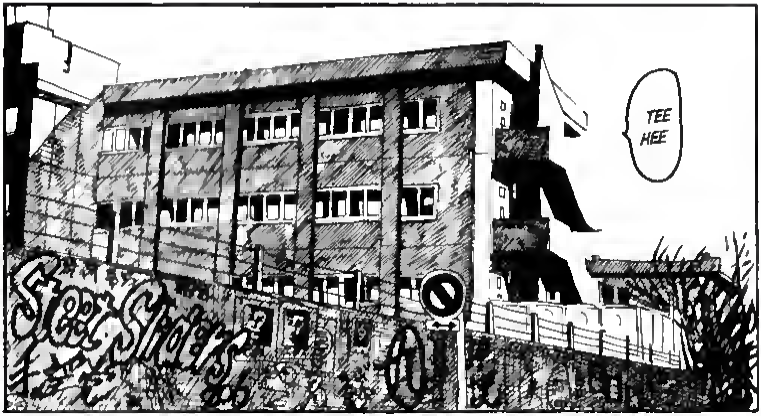
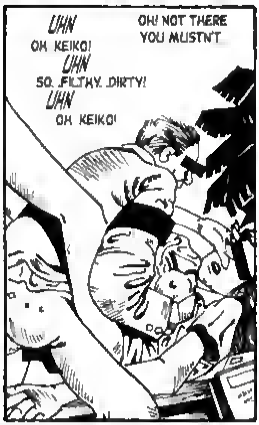
If You're Happy And You Know It, Clap Your Hands

GRAFFITI: [FAR RIGHT CORNER] ON CHEEK/TUFT OF FACE [TOP LEFT CORNER] BETWEEN SOCCER BALL AND F SH SAFETY FIRST
GRAFFITI: [ABOVE WINDOW ON WALL - IN CIRCLE] KIJO
[BELOW WINDOW ON WALL] JOY





GRAFFITI PANEL 1 [RIGHT—BOLD] CONFUSION [IN CIRCLE] POWER! [LEFT BELOW STREET SLIDERS] MASTURBATION SOCIETY
PANEL 4 SIGNAGE PALMS READ 100% KNOW YOUR FUTURE FORGET YOUR PAST
[FAR RIGHT] BEWARE [IN CIRCLE] POWER!

YOU HAVEN'T CLAPPED IN A WHILE.
LET'S DO SOMETHING, AOKI. WE'RE ROTTING HERE
SEX
IT'S NOT THAT EASY
JUST ONE MORE TO SET A RECORD.
C'MON. YOU CLAPPED SEVEN TIMES, RIGHT?
THAT'S OLD
...
YOU'VE GOTTEN SOFT, KUJO. YOU'RE LOSING THEIR RESPECT.
THE JUNIORS ARE EVEN TALKIN'.
NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU'VE BEEN KIND OF A PUSSY LATELY.

GRAFFITTI PANEL 1 [CENTER BOARD/ABOVE SEX] GOOD [CENTER BOARD/BELOW SEX] LOVE IT
[LEFT BOARD] NO SECURITY FACTS—MORE SEX ACTS!
GRAFFITTI PANEL 2 [ON BACK OF CHAIR] KUJO

SLIDE..
IN THE 16TH CENTURY, BABUR WHO WAS A DESCENDANT OF TAMERLANE...
FINE. YOU ARRANGE THE LIQUOR AND THE LOOKOUTS.
DON'T I ALWAYS ?
OKAY...
OKAY, THAT'S EVERYBODY.

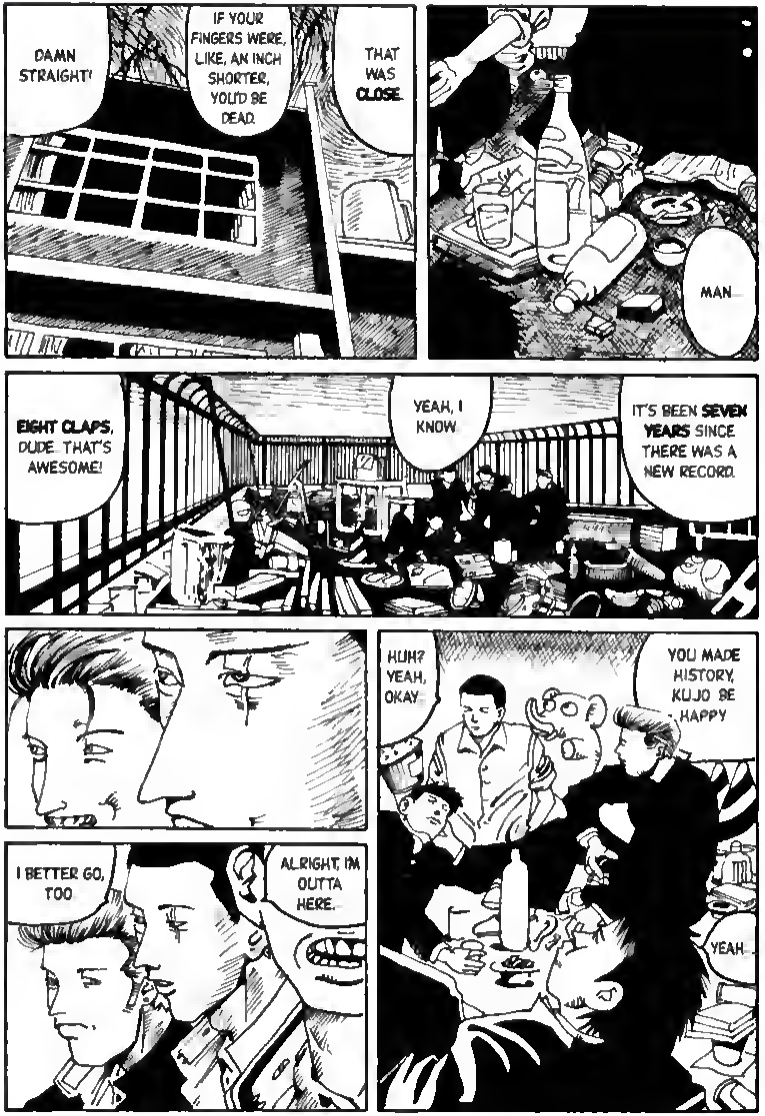
PANEL 1 GRAFFITI: [FAR LEFT] PARADISE
PANEL 3 GRAFFITI: IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT CLAP YOUR HANDS?!

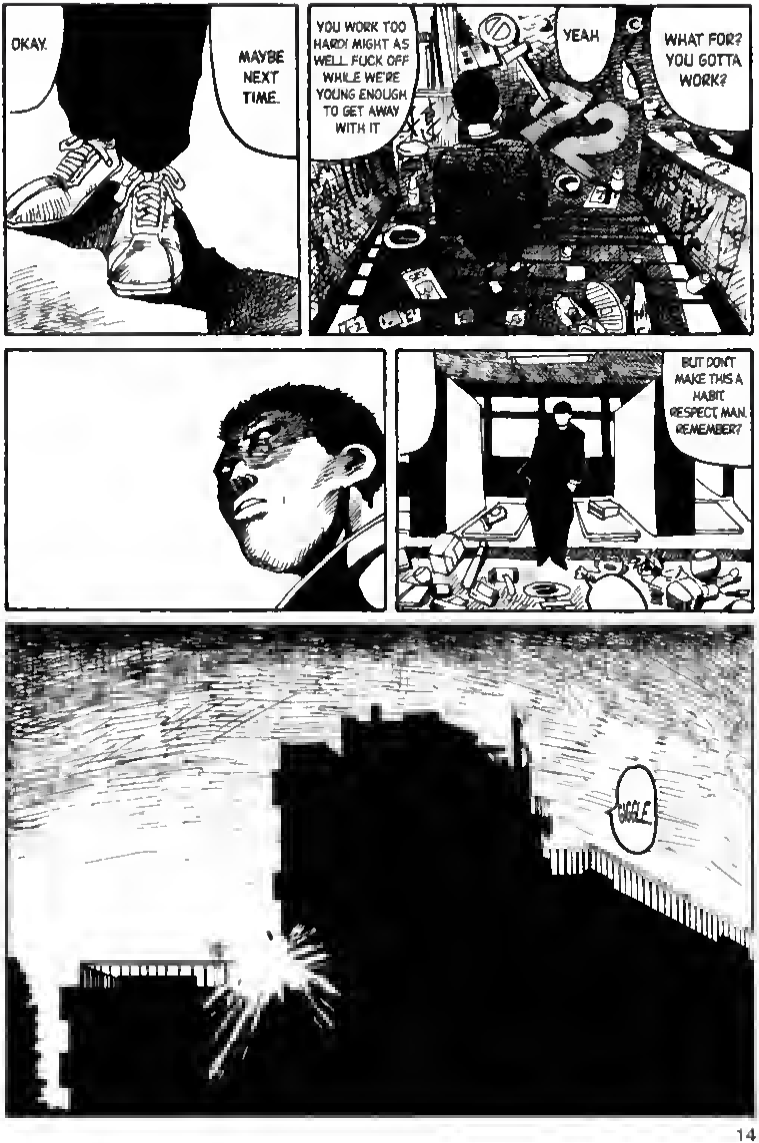
CLAPPING GAME?
REALLY?
HMM.
YP
NO
IF THE PTA FINDS OUT THERE'LL BE AN UPROAR.
YES! THEY STAND ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE RAILING AND SEE WHO CAN CLAP THEIR HANDS THE LONGEST WITHOUT FALLING.
I LOVE IT...
SO THAT'S HOW THOSE LOWLIFES ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES.
THREE!
AHH-!
CLAP

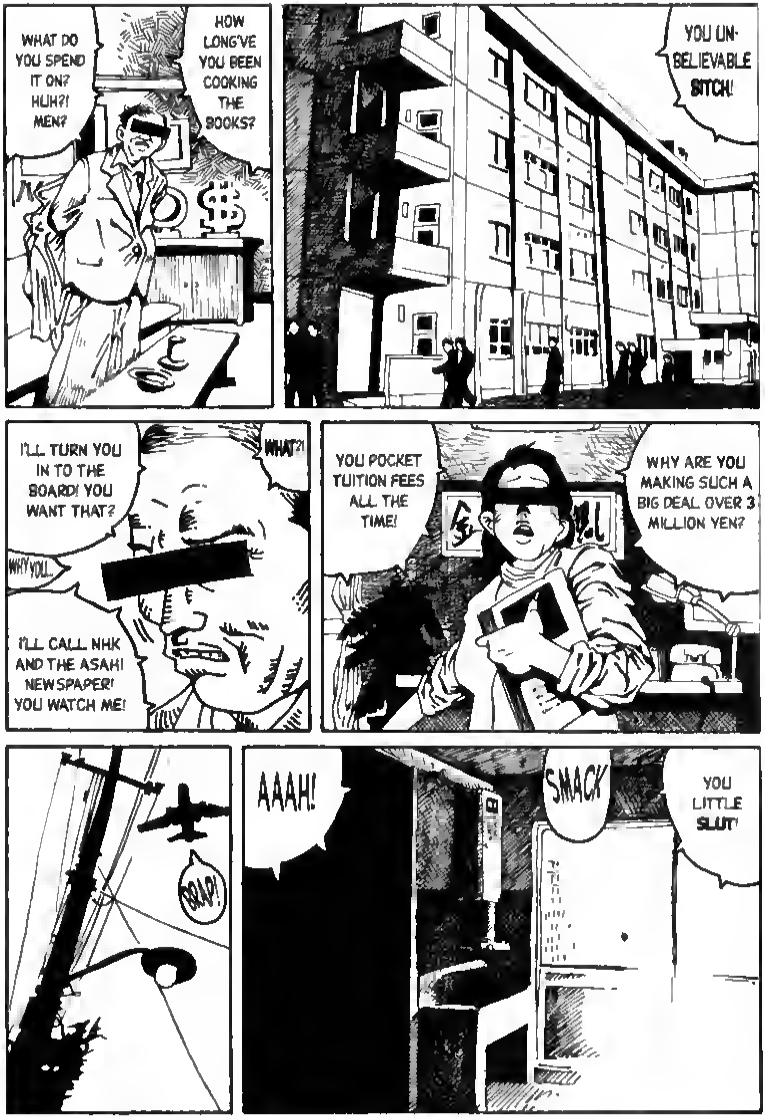
GRAFFITI PANEL 1 [ON WALL BELOW ANGRY FACE] I'M MAD ABOUT IT

WE'RE REALLY HIGH UP
THE PTA IS NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF BORED OLD HOUSEWIVES WHO HAD TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE TO DO WHEN THERE WAS NOTHING ON TV.
PUFF
I PASS
OKAY, BREAK'S OVER.
IF A COUPLE OF THOSE LOSERS FELL ON THEIR HEADS OUR TEST AVERAGES WOULD SKYROCKET.

GRAFFITI PANEL 2 [ON OUTSIDE OF GLASS PANE]PRINCIPAL BALDIE


DAMN STRAIGHT!
IF YOUR FINGERS WERE, LIKE, AN INCH SHORTER, YOU'D BE DEAD.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
MAN...
EIGHT CLAPS, DUDE. THAT'S AWESOME!
YEAH, I KNOW.
IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE THERE WAS A NEW RECORD.
HUH? YEAH, OKAY.
YOU MADE HISTORY, KUJO. BE HAPPY.
YEAH.
I BETTER GO, TOO.
ALRIGHT, I'M OUTTA HERE.


OKAY.
MAYBE NEXT TIME.
YOU WORK TOO HARD! MIGHT AS WELL FUCK OFF WHILE WE'RE YOUNG ENOUGH TO GET AWAY WITH IT
YEAH
WHAT FOR? YOU GOTTA WORK?
BUT DON'T MAKE THIS A HABIT. RESPECT, MAN. REMEMBER?
HEHE


WHAT DO YOU SPEND IT ON? HUH?! MEN?
HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN COOKING THE BOOKS?
YOU UN-BELIEVABLE BITCH!
I'LL TURN YOU IN TO THE BOARD! YOU WANT THAT?
WHAT?!
WHY YOU...
I'LL CALL NHK AND THE ASAHI NEWSPAPER! YOU WATCH ME!
YOU POCKET TUITION FEES ALL THE TIME!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A BIG DEAL OVER 3 MILLION YEN?
BOLP!
AAAH!
SMACK
YOU LITTLE SLUT!

CALLIGRAPHY PANEL 3 PROSPERITY

WE GRADUATE SOON AND THEY DON'T KNOW JACK YET
OH YEAH?
LET IT GO, AOKI.
AND YOU'RE WAY TOO LAX ABOUT THIS.
YOU SEE THAT? KIDS TODAY DON'T KNOW HOW TO SHOW RESPECT.
TSK.
TSK.
WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU JUST SAY?
OH?
HEH HEH
HUFF
YO, KUJO! LEO SAID HE CLAPPED SEVEN TIMES. HE SAID YOU AIN'T SHIT

FOOTNOTE: PANEL 5 GRAFFITI: "ILLEG BLE EXC EPTS (THE ONE BELOW SEX) MASTURBATION

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI: (BETWEEN BALLOONS) KUJO RULZ [RIGHT OF AOKI'S CHEEK] NAGAFUKU, YOU OWE ME!
PANEL 3 GRAFFITI: [TOP RIGHT HORIZONTAL] JOHN TRAVOLTA [FAR RIGHT, ABOVE "STREET SLIDER"] REPUBLIC OF CHINA, BANZAI! [FAR RIGHT, BELOW "STREET SLIDER"] INDIANS (FROM INDIA) ARE SHOCKED, TOO. [FAR LEFT, TOP HORIZONTAL, ILLEGIBLE] [FAR LEFT] MIDDLE WINDOW) I'LL SELL MY MACH II FOR CHEAP. [FAR LEFT, FIRST WINDOW) I'LL BUY IT FOR 20,000 YEN. TAKADA [RIGHT OF "FBI"] I LOVE--[ILLEGIBLE] PANEL 6 GRAFFITI: WHO'S WATCHING?

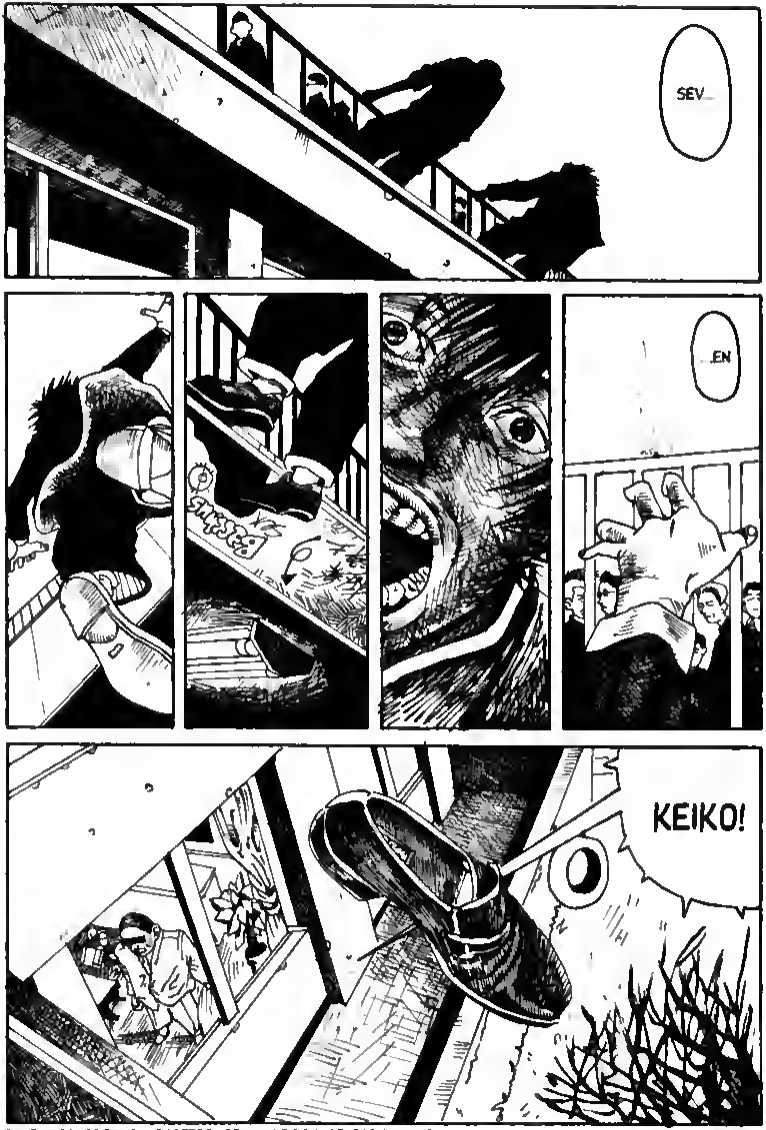
PANEL 7 GRAFFITI: [TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT]
IIDA CONGRATUATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE IIDA YOU HAVE NO FUTURE! [NEXT TO AOKI'S FACE] CUNT PLUS COCK [BELOW TIC-TAC-TOE] CHEERS! [NEXT TO KUJO'S FACE] KICK THE WORLD AND CONQUER IT! [LEFT NEXT TO FUCK YOU, SMALL TEXT] RYOKO COME BACK! [FAR LEFT ABOVE "FUCK YOU"] AKINA IS MY LIFE! [NOTE REFERS TO AKINA NAKAMORI A POP IDOL] [FAR LEFT BOTTOM]BUY MY MACH II FOR500 000 YEN THAT'S EXPENSIVE! [BALLOON BY FISH]YEAH

PANEL 3 GRAFFITI [FAR RIGHT GIRL'S NAME] TAKAMI SAKAMOTO [CENTER] JAPANESE COMEDY HOUR [LEFT] TOILET

PANEL 3 GRAFFITI: [FAR RIGHT] TAIYO WAS HERE [LARGE KANJI] DREAM
[FAR RIGHT, UNDER STAR] CUNT PLUS COCK
[LEFT OF PEES] THOUGHTS ARE YOUR OWN DESIRES (NOTE: THE REST IS COVERED BY HEAD)
[FAR RIGHT, VERTICAL] KILL, SEX, PRAYER, DIRTY, DEATH
[UNDER CIRCLED KUJO CHARACTER] MITA: YOU'D BETTER PAY ME THE HUSH MONEY
PANEL 5 CALIGRAPHY: NOTHING BEATS MONEY

PANEL 1 FX: CLAP
PANEL 2 GRAFFITI: [BELOW G2] KUJO'S ISLAND

PANEL 5 SIGNAGE: PALMS READ [SMALL TEXT] KNOW YOUR FUTURE FORGET YOUR PAST [AT FRONT OF DESK] 100¥

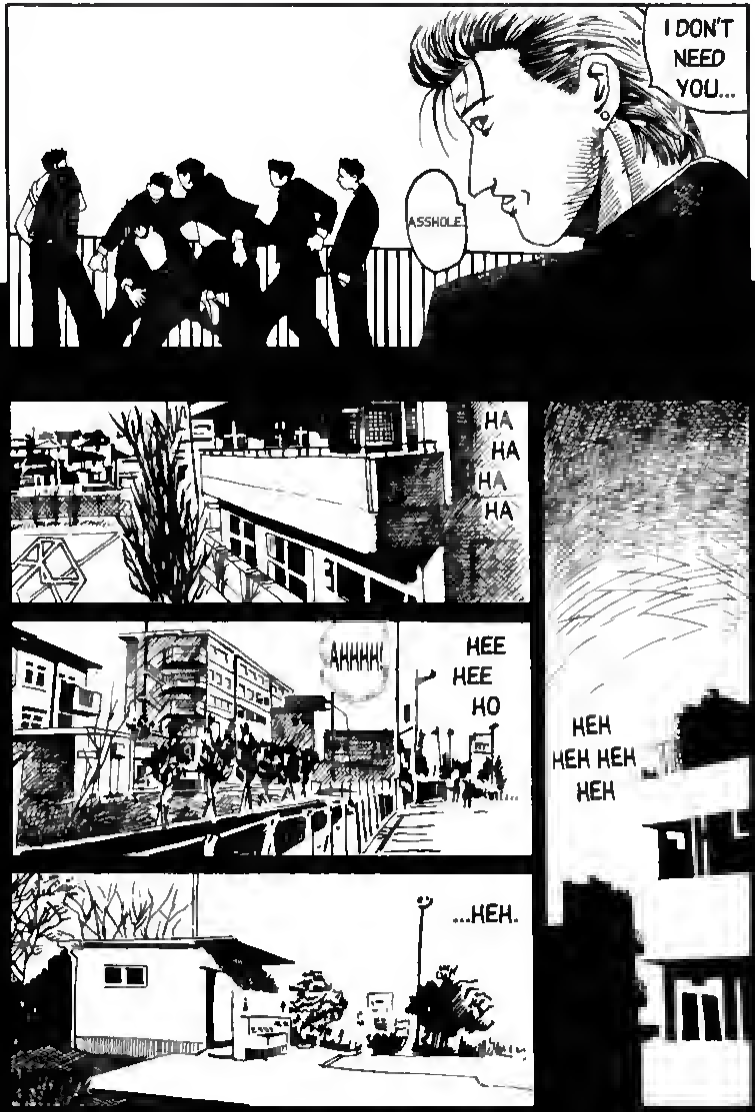


PANEL 4 GRAFFITI [CHARACTERS ARE UPSIDE DOWN] PARADISE ROAD

I-I CAN'T.
WHOOSH
DAMN
NOPE.
HE FALL?

YOU WANNA CALL 5 OR 6 OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS? WE'LL SCHOOL ALL YA'LL.
COLLARBONE? RIBS? WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE?
DON'T BE SCARED. WE RE GOOD AT THIS..
AGH.
THUNK
HEY! HEY, YOU.
AOKI, GET OFF MY JOCK!
WHEN YOU COMING UP NEXT, KUJO? YO!
HEY, YOU LEAVING?
FUCK YOU...
I'M GOIN'
YOU CAN'T RELY ON ME FOR EVERY-THING.
CRUNCH

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI: [TO LEFT OF KISS] TAKADA BABY [RIGHT OF PEACE SIGN] HEAVEN IS [RIGHT, NEXT TO ARM] WAR & PEACE
PANEL 5 GRAFFITI: [EXTREME RIGHT] DON'T BE A STRAY DOG [LEFT WALL] MASTURBATION [BELOW TEL] YOU'RE GONNA DIE


I DON'T NEED YOU...
ASSHOLE.
HA HA HA HA
AHHHH!
HEE HEE HO
HEH HEH HEH HEH
...HEH.

...DEAD?
NOPE. FELL FROM THE ROOF
HIS SCOOTER?
ABOUT FOUR DAYS AGO. DIED INSTANTLY
AOKI?
HE CLAPPED TWELVE TIMES...
YEAH, WELL, HE WAS PRETTY COOL, THAT GUY
FUCKING IDIOT...
YAJIMA

HE KEPT CLAPPING UNTIL HE HIT THE GROUND AND BUSTED HIS HEAD OPEN.
TWELVE TIMES! NOBODY'LL EVER DO BETTER THAN THAT, NOT EVEN YOU.
HE WAS AMAZING.
NOPE.
YEAH...

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI [DARK FONT] TAKAMI MATSUMOTO [TEXT IN OUTLINE] TOLUENE BROTHERS
PANEL 4 SIGN PALMS READ [SMALL TEXT] KNOW YOUR FUTURE

PANEL 3 GRAFFITI [BLACK BACKGROUND]NO LOITERING [BELOW ALL NIGHT] JAPAN IS AT PEACE [BELOW 'NO LOITERING' FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, NAMES] KUROSAWA NAGAKAWA OHTA INOUE TAKADA KUJO AOKI
(TO LEFT OF CAMEL IN CIRCLE] K [FOR KUJO] (LEFT SIDE] NO SECURITY PACTS—MORE SEX ACTS!
MASTURRATION SOCIETY GOOD FRIENDS BAD FRIENDS LOVE HATE
PANEL 3 GRAFFITI [ACROSS FENCE] SOMEONE GET ME OUT OF HERE!

Y'KNOW THAT GIRL, AKEMI? SHE GOES TO NISHIKO. KNOW HER...?
BWA HA HA HA HA HA!
MC HAMMER DRINKS PEPSI.
BACK TO NEARLY90
YEAH, SHE'S AFTER KITANO GUYS. DON'T WEAR YOUR SCHOOL PIN.
WORD IS, SHE S GIVIN IT UP ALL OVER.
NIKE! GET YOURSELF SOME NIKES.
WHAT? NO. WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
YA'LL KNOW REEBOK JAMS? I HEARD THEY RE GOOD.
THIS SUCKS. LET'S GO TO SHIBUYA.
HEY, YOU LIKE THAT BAND GUY? THEIR SOUNDS TOO SLICK.
(PFFZZTTT)...

PANEL 2 GRAFFITI: [TOP LINE] SOMEONE SAVE ME! [BOTTOM LINE] DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK
PANEL 3 GRAFFITI:[FAR RIGHT,BACK OF CHAIR] THIS IS HELL. [FAR LEFT, BACK OF CHAIR] I'M DETERMINED. [OR "I'M DESPERATE."]

Blue Spring

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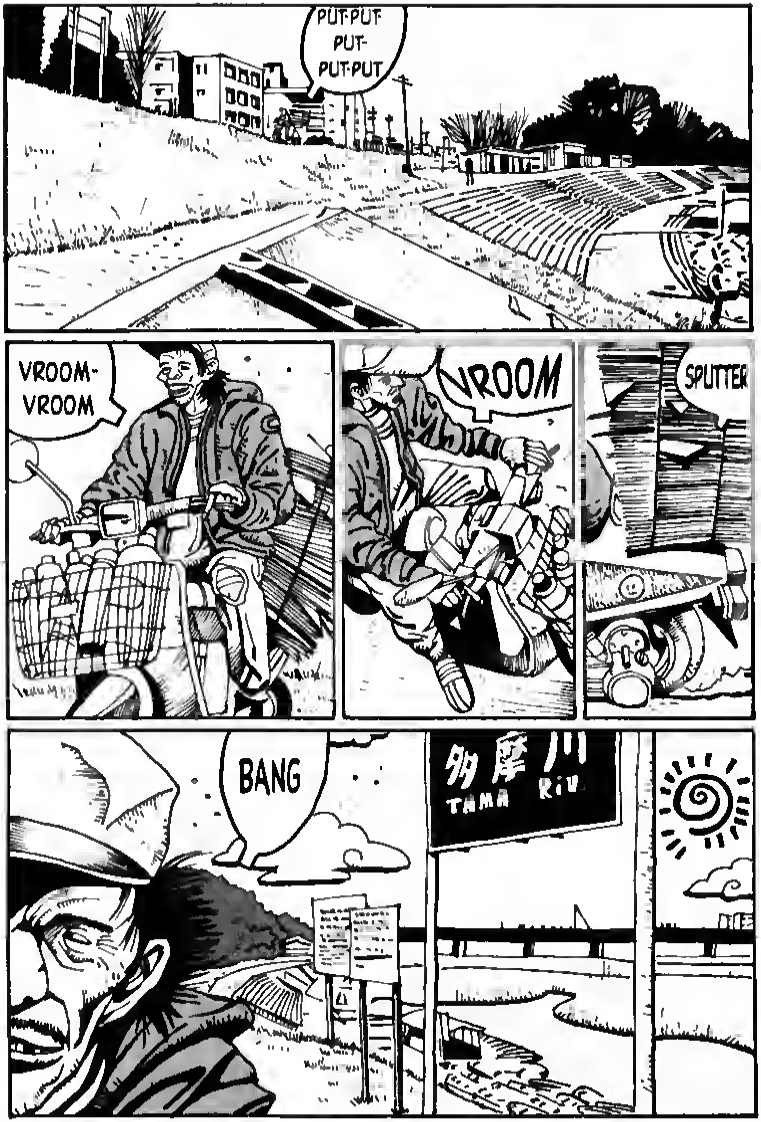
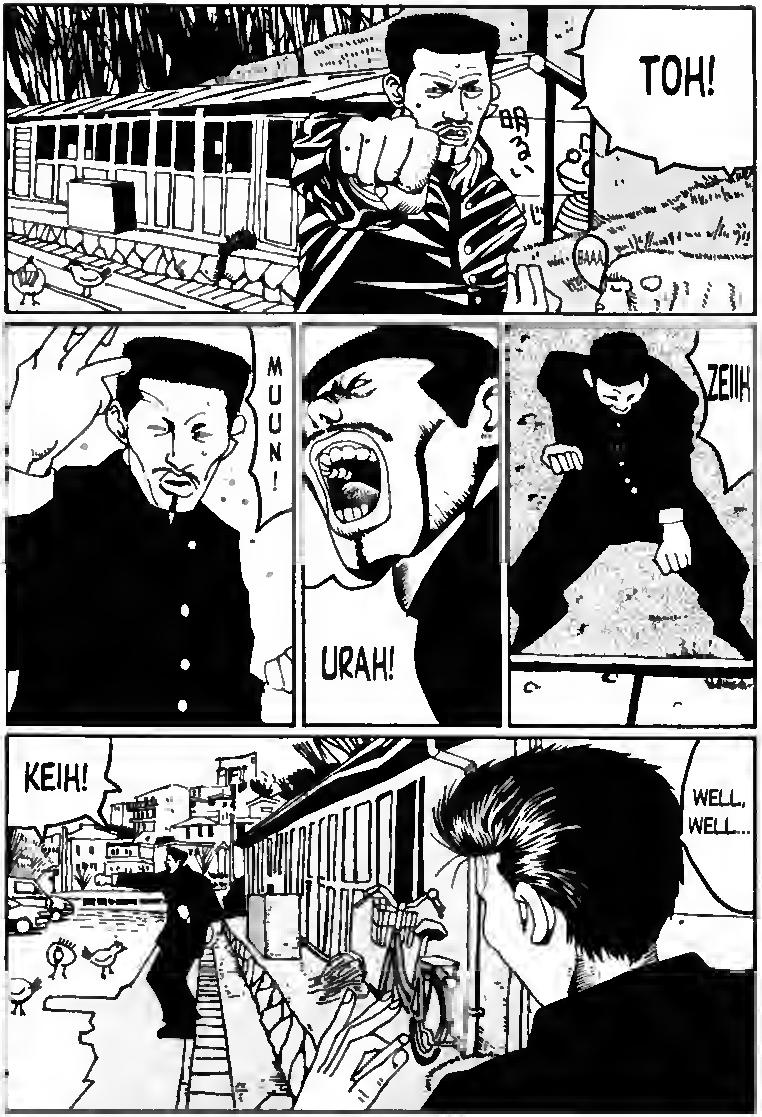
REVOLVER

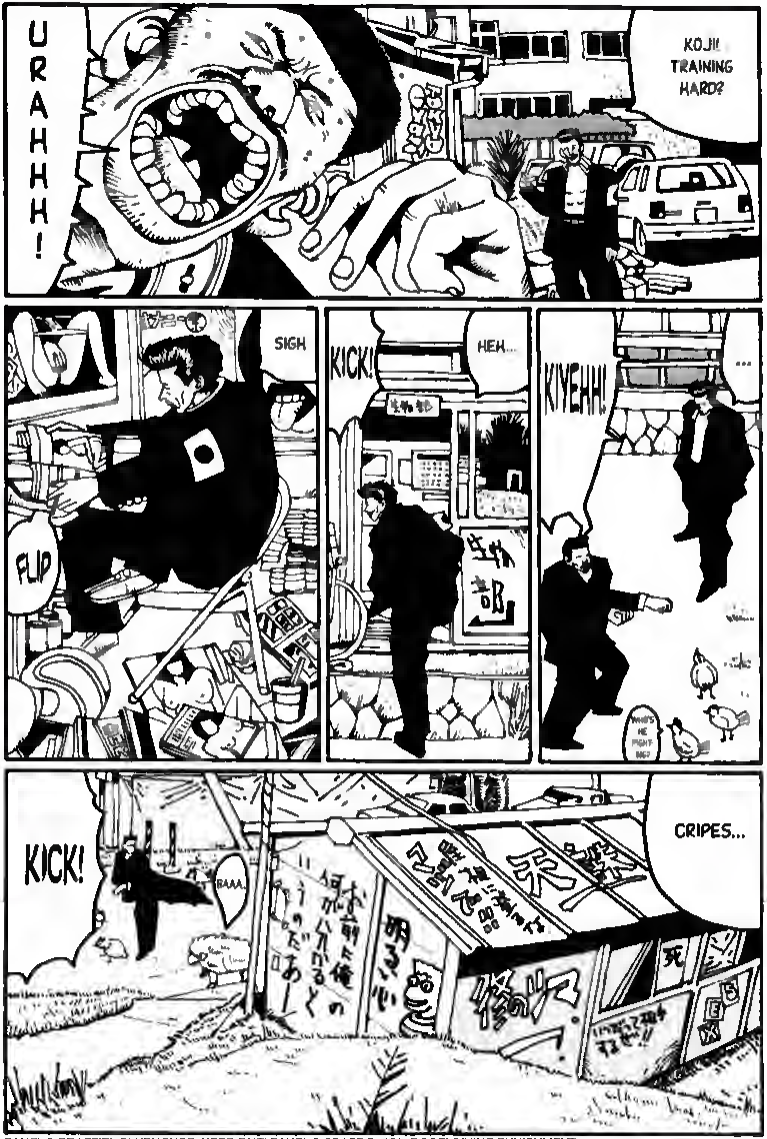
1ST SHOT: AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI ON TRASH CAN. [INSET] DON'T FORGET THE RED SUN
TRASH
WASTE DISPOSAL
SCUM

SIGNAGE ON FENCE. [SPREAD ACROSS PAGES 34-35] NATIONAL DOMINATION


PUT-PUT-
PUT-
PUT-PUT
VROOM-
VROOM
VROOM
SPUTTER
BANG
多摩川
TAMA RIV


TOH!
MUUN!
URAH!
ZEIIH
KEIH!
WELL, WELL...

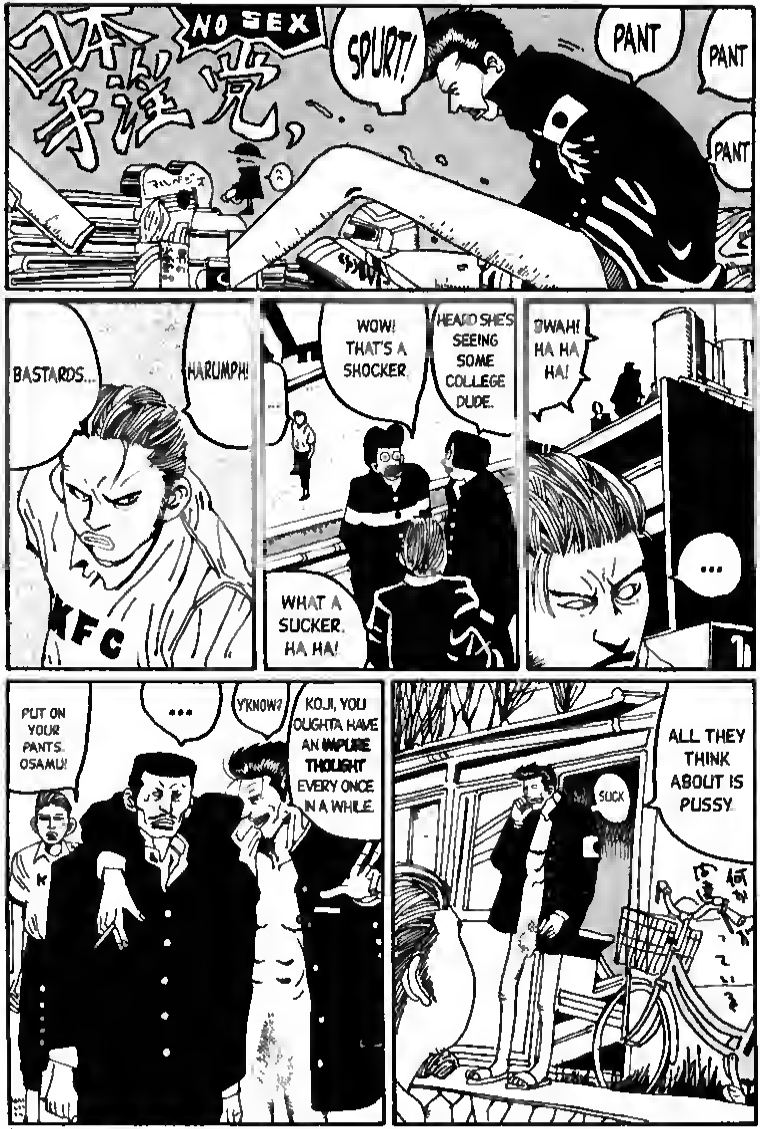


PANEL 3 GRAFFITI CLUBHOUSE KEEP OUT! PANEL 5 GRAFFITI (ON ROOF) DIVINE PUNISHMENT
[VERTICAL TEXT] STAY OFF ROOF! NOT KIDDING!! [BLACK WALL] TRAINING ISLAND DEATH ANY TIME! ANY PLACE! [WHITE WALL STARTING NEXT TO FACE] HAPPY HEART YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME!

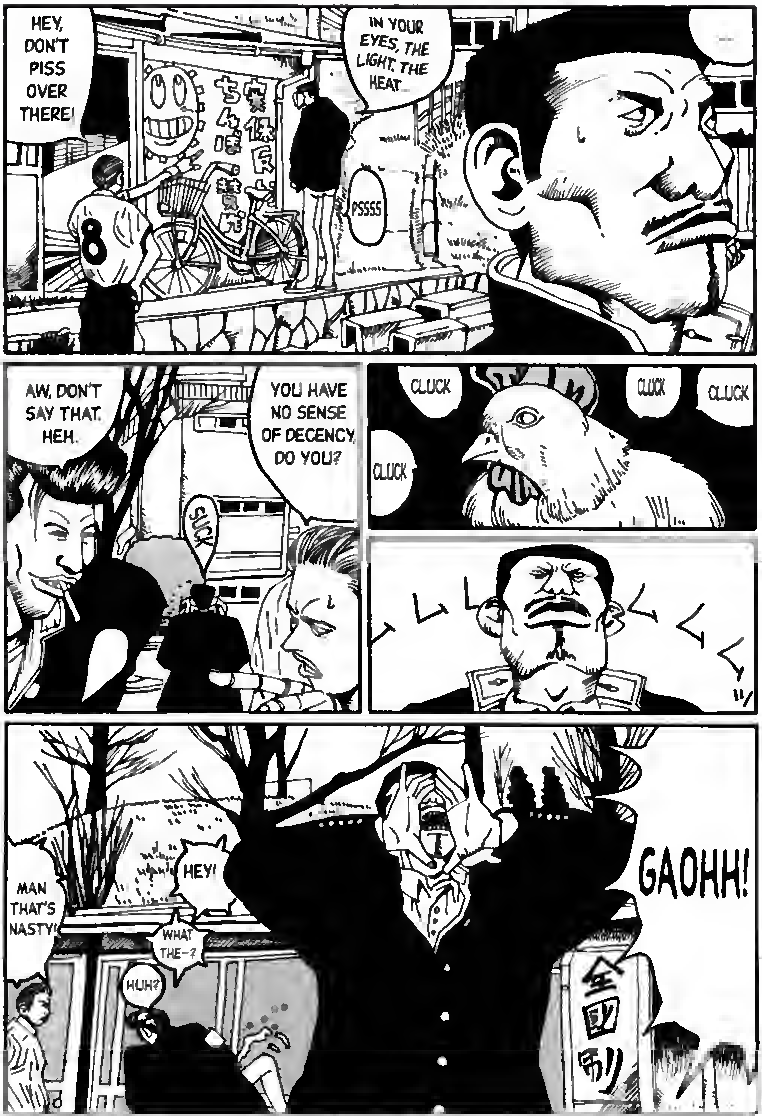
PANEL 2 FX: THUNK!

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
HEY!
SLEEAW
TATSU-TOSHI! CALM DOWN!
HMPH!
STOMP
WHAT?
I QUIT.
DAMN...
KFC
GLUG GLUG
MMM...
CAW.

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI [BLACK TEXT] DIVINE PUNISHMENT [WHITE TEXT] NO SECURITY FACTS—MORE SEX ACTS!
PANEL 2 FX BUMP



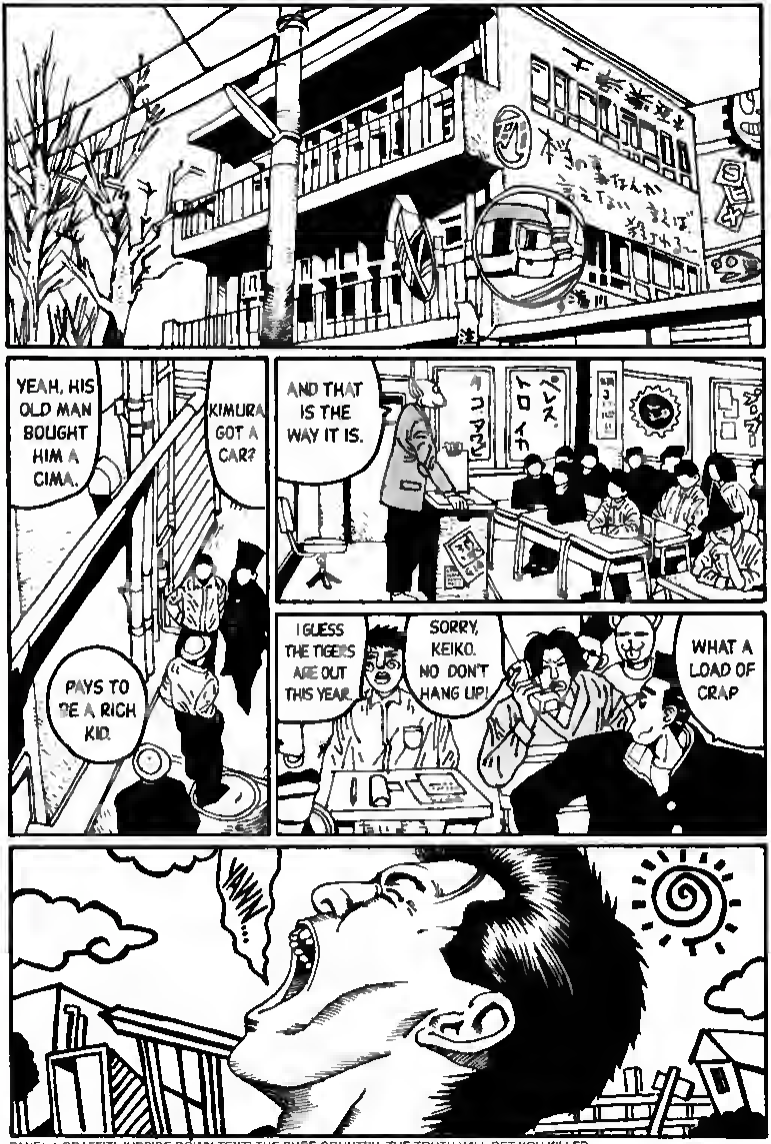
PANEL 1 GRAFFITI MASTURBATION SOCIETY
PANEL 5 GRAFFITI SOMETHING'S WRONG



PANEL 1 AND 5 GRAFFITI: NO SECURITY FACTS—MORE SEX ACTS!
PANEL 3 FX: FUME FUME FUME FUME
PANEL 5 SIGN: CONQUER

PANEL 1 SIGNAGE NEARING KITANO HIGH SCHOOL
PANEL 3 SIGNAGE REVOLUTION
PANEL 6 FX HMM

PANEL 3 FX: [SHOUTING INTO NIGHT SKY] DAMMIT, MAKE SUMMER COME!!


YEAH, HIS OLD MAN BOUGHT HIM A CIMA.
KIMURA GOT A CAR?
PAYS TO BE A RICH KID.
AND THAT IS THE WAY IT IS.
I GUESS THE TIGERS ARE OUT THIS YEAR.
SORRY, KEIKO. NO DON'T HANG UP!
WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI [UPSIDE DOWN TEXT] THE PURE COUNTRY THE TRUTH WILL GET YOU KILLED
PANEL 2 SIGNS [RIGHT TO LEFT BACKGROUND] A HAPPY HEART PERESTROIKA, TAKO

I'M SLEEPY
MIGHT AS WELL FEED US DOGFOOD.
SPUTTER SPUTTER
IS STALE.
EVEN THIS BREAD...
UH-HUH.
MY LIFE IS A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE OF DULL...
SCREECH!

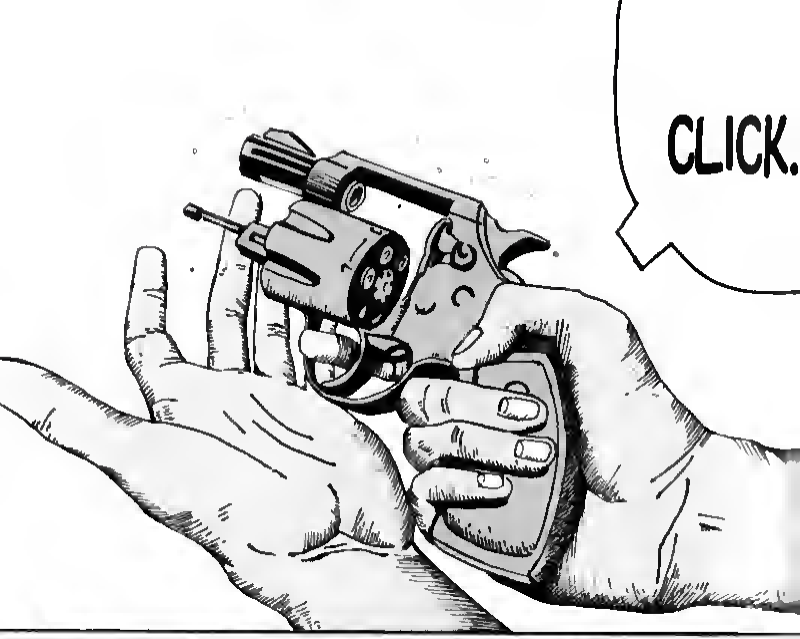
PANEL 1 GRAFFITI [RIGHT] TRAINING ISLAND [LEFT] FOREVER HAPPIES WAS HERE!
PANEL 3 GRAFFITI TRAINING ISLAND

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI [VERTICAL WRITING] TODAY'S WORLD [TO RIGHT OF ZOO] [UNDER UP ARROW] DOG [UNDER DOWN ARROW] CAT

PANEL 1GRAFFITI [ON STAIRWAY WALL] YOU ONLY COMPARE THE BAD [AGAINST WALL NEXT TO HONDA] I'LL KILL YOU! [AGAINST WALL TO RIGHT OF SWASTIKA] WAR AND PEACE [AGAINST WALL BELOW SWASTIKA] IF YOU'RE A MAN SCUTI [ABOVE THE PEES] KUJO WAS HERE!
PANEL 2 GRAFFITI [FAR RIGHT THIS ONE'S ILLEGIBLE] [UPPER FAR LEFT]SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THIS WORLD [FAR LEFT BOTTOM] MONEY

DIG...
DIG...
DIG...
DIG...
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
THINK WE'LL FIND A BODY?
HEH HEH HEH...
MAKING FOOLS OF OUR-SELVES?
WHAT ARE THREE GROWN MEN DOING DIGGING UP A SHRINE?
DIG...
DIG...
OHH!
RATTLE
WHAT IS IT?
WELL?
HUH?
THUNK

PANEL 2 FX: KA THUNK!
PANEL 3 [ENGRAVING ON STATUE] ACCEPTANCE



PANEL 3 FX: CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! (RUNNING FEET ON GRAVEL)

PANEL 1 FX TOOOOT CHUGAA CHUGGA PANEL 2 GRAFFITI HELL CLUB PANEL 4 FX BWOOONK

PANEL 1 FX: CHUG-CHUG-CHUG- CHUG-CHUG-CHUG PANEL 1-2 FX: CLANK-CLANK-CLANK- CLANK-CLANK-CLANK
PANEL 5 FX: BAM! PANEL 5-8 FX: CHUG-CHUG-CHUG- CHUG-CHUG-CHUG PANEL 11 TATSUTOSHI: WHOA?!
BOTTOM FX: CLANK-CLANK-CLANK- CLANK-CLANK-CLANK

PANEL 1 FX: TOOT! TOOT!
PANEL 5 CAPTION: [RIGHT TO LEFT] THIS... THIS IS BAD!

REVOLVER

2ND SHOT: THE BULLET

TEXT ON ARMBAND: THE BRAIN

SOMEONE STOLE MY SCOOTER.
HA HA HA HA...
HEY, FRESHMEN! LET'S GO!
AHH!
HEE HEE HEE. STUPID.
I WISH IT WAS SUMMER.
STOP! I'LL FALL!
YO! MITA.

PANEL 2 GRAFFITI [RIGHT] LET MANKIND TURN MELANCHOLY [LEFT] JUSTICE

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI: SHORT OF SPEECH PANEL 2 GRAFFITI: TAKE IT EASY

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI KIDS TODAY DISAPPOINT PANEL 3 GRAFFITI DANCE (BEHIND OSAMU)

PANEL 1 FX: BWOOON PANEL 4 FX: BAM

PANEL 8 CAPTION [EVERYONE THINKING SAME THING] WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

SIGH.
YEAH?
ABOUT THAT OLD MAN..
PARAN! PARAN!
HEH HEH HEH.
?
WE SURE LOOKED HARD FOR 'IM.
HE'S LONG GONE BY NOW.

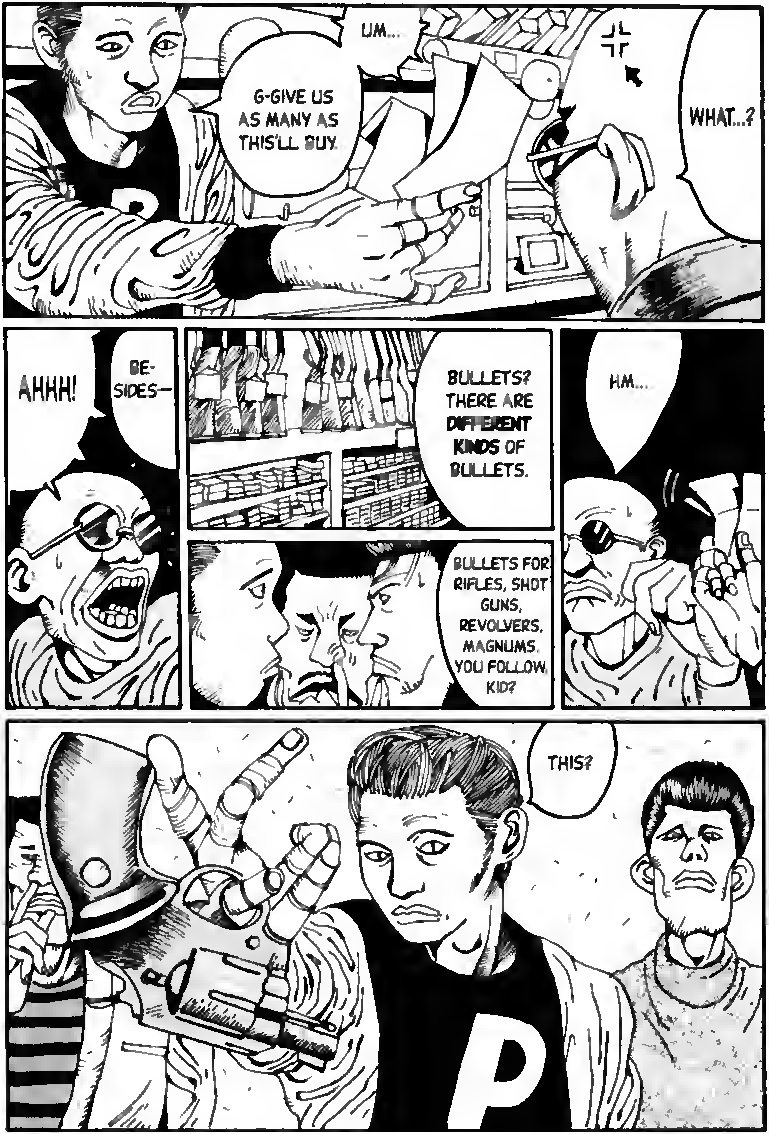
BUL-
LETS,
I
MEAN?
CAN WE
JUST
BUY
THEM?
YEAH.
WE
SHOULD
GET MORE
AND TRADE
EM FOR
MITA'S
SAVINGS.
HOW
MANY
BULLETS
LEFT?
JUST
ONE.
WHAT?
SERIOUSLY?
UH-HUH.
LET'S
GO TO
SHINJUKU.

WHAT D'YOU KNOW?! YOU'RE A KID!
CMON, LEARN TO GET IT ON!
TRANS-FORM! THE DRUNK-EN MAN!
YOU OKAY, MISTE...?
THERE.
YEP
MAN CROSS ONE RIVER AND YOU'RE IN A DIFFER ENT WORLD.
ZZZZ

PANEL 1SIGNAGE [RIGHT SIDE, VERTICAL] PUB 6F IZAKAYA 4F [CENTER] SOBA [HORIZONTAL SIGN] KABUKI-CHO TOWN BLOCK ONE
PANEL 2 SIGNAGE KARAOKE
PANEL 3 GRAFFITI [RIGHT SIDE VERTICAL] SINGLES [HORIZONTAL..TOP] SINGLES
[LEFT SIDE, VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL] TELEPHONE CLUB 800¥ PER HOUR

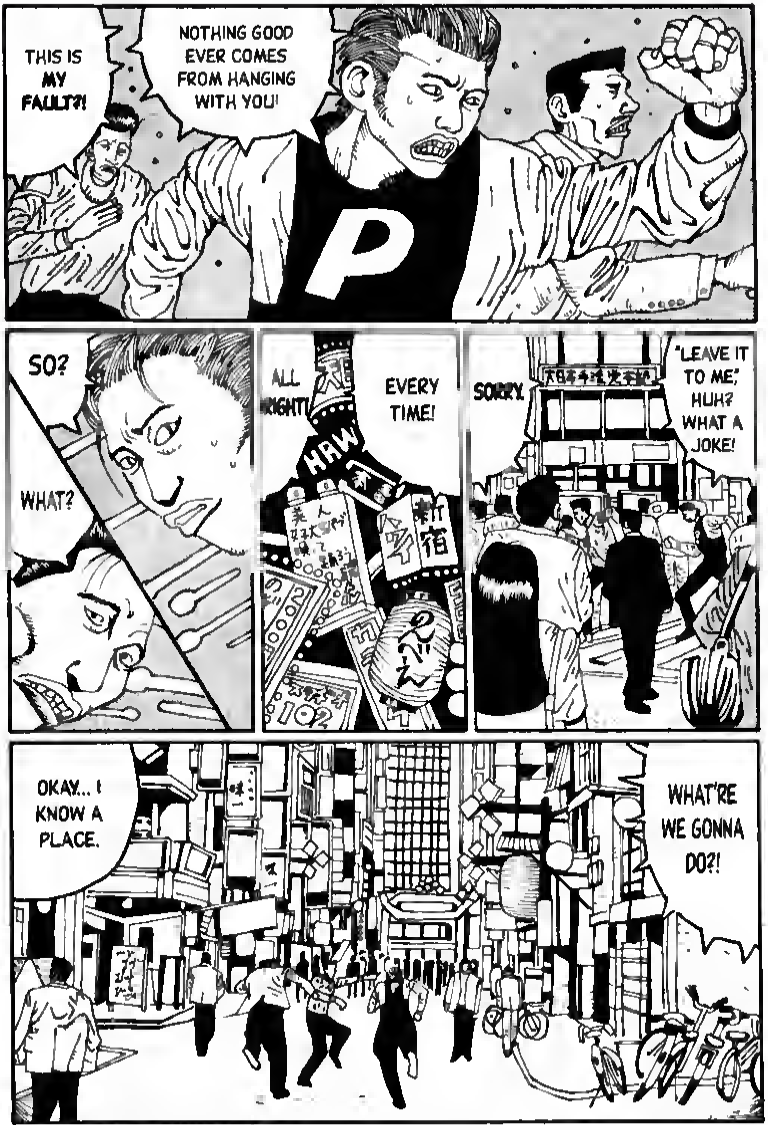
PANEL 1 SIGNAGE GUN SHOP

!
BULLETS
SCAT!
THESE AREN'T TOYS. GO TO AMEYOKO FOR TOYS
...
YOU WANT SOMETHING?


G-GIVE US AS MANY AS THIS'LL BUY.
UM...
WHAT...?
AHHH!
BE-SIDES—
BULLETS? THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF BULLETS.
HM...
BULLETS FOR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, REVOLVERS, MAGNUMS. YOU FOLLOW, KID?
THIS?

DON'T. DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT, BOY.
YOU KIDS...
...
HM...
?
YES, WELL.. HEH. IT DEPENDS ON THE BRAND, YOU KNOW? HEH.
THERE'S 30,000¥ THERE. HOW MANY BULLETS CAN WE BUY?

PANEL 4 EV. BOLT



PANEL 2 SIGNAGE: MASTURBATION SOCIETY HQ
PANEL 3 SIGNAGE: [CLOCKWISE FROM CENTER SIGN: JUST BELOW HAW] THE REAL THING
SHINJUKU NAWA!! NIBE! [NAME OF SHOP] PRETTY COEDS SING & DANCE STUDIO 102 2000¥

OHHH-!
MAN, THIS IS AMAZ-ING...
GRUNT
A PEEP SHOW...
UM...
WE'LL LOOK AT SOME PUSSY AND WAIT.
THE COPS WON'T LOOK FOR US HERE.
OH YEAH.
WHAT WE DID WAS AMAZING...

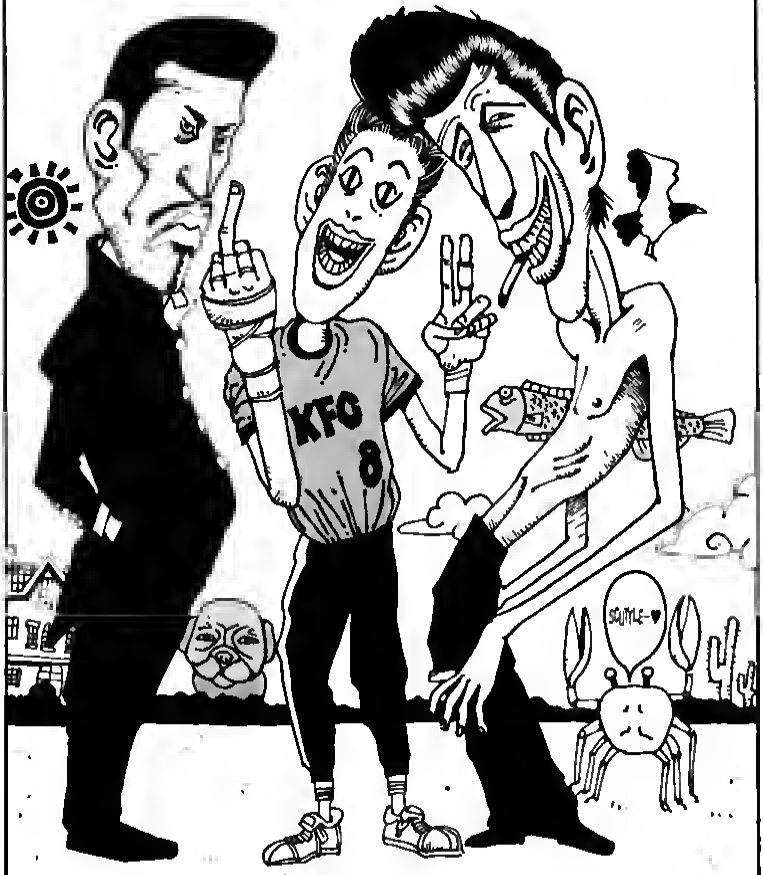
PANEL 1SIGNAGE [RIGHT TO LEFT FROM BANNER] BAR
[PARTIAL, BLACK BACKGROUND, WHITE TEXT] RAMEN PUB TELEPHONES
PANEL 2 SIGNAGE KARAOKE 102 DRINK AND SING WITH FEMALE MC

EASY COME, EASY GO.
HE TOOK ALL OUR MONEY.
GRUNT
THE CITY'S A FILTHY HOLE. HUH, KOJI?
MAN!
...
CLATCH
BANG.

PANEL 1 FX: BA BOOM

REVOLVER

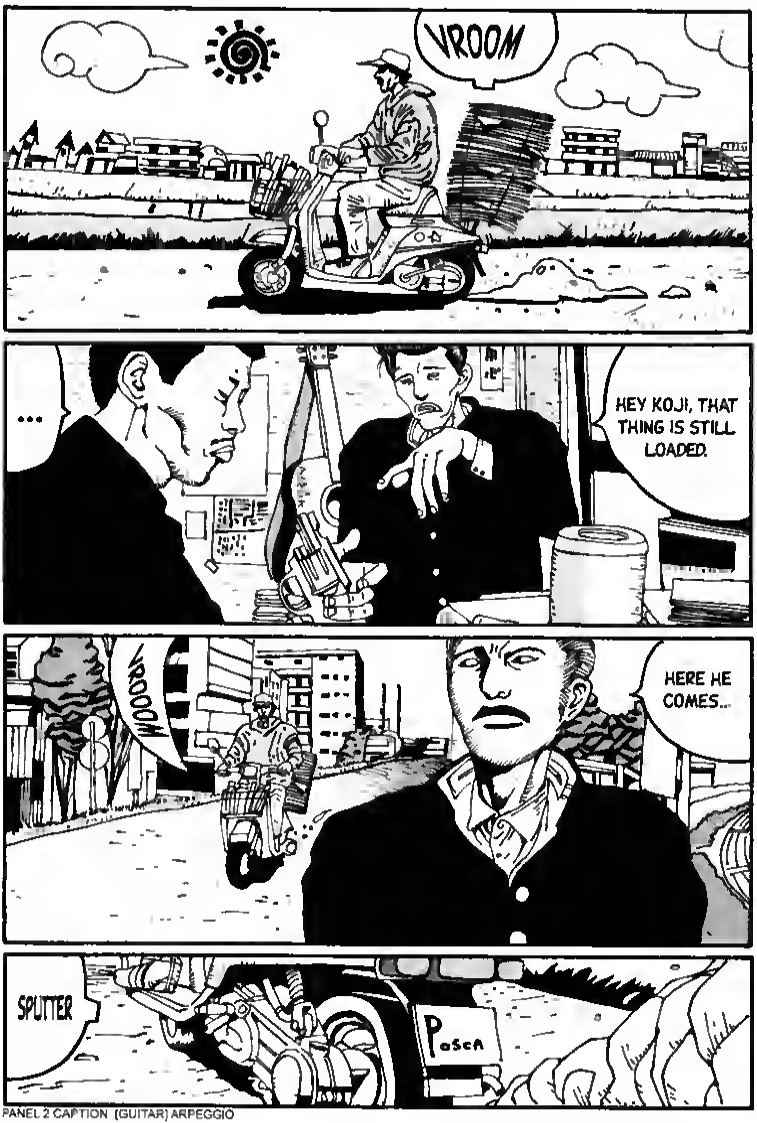
LAST SHOT: FLOWER FESTIVAL



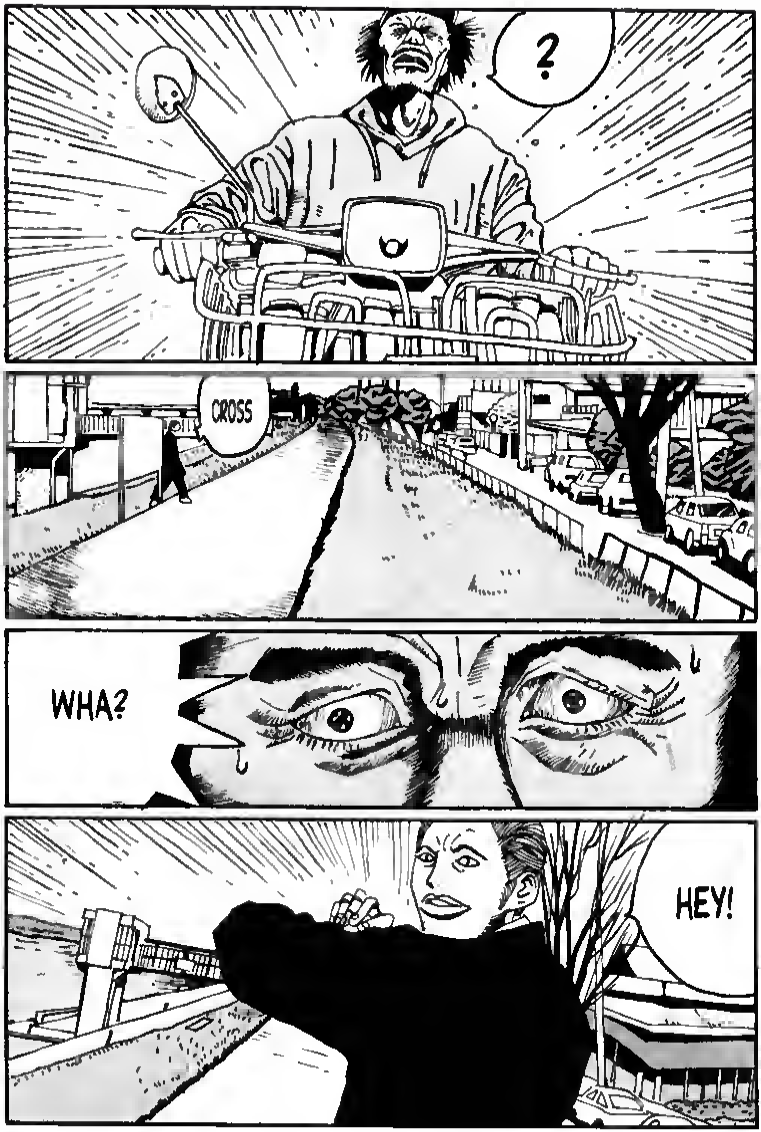
MOM'S OFF TO WORK.
OKAY, OSAMU
CLACK
MMM...
YOU BETTER GET UP FOR SCHOOL.
THERE'S FOOD IN THE FRIDGE
MILD COCOA
TODAY'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL'S FOUNDING
YOU SURE YOU'RE GONNA GRADUATE?
YOU SAID THAT LAST WEEK...

THINK A LITTLE, OKAY?
CLACK
YOU'RE NOT A KID ANYMORE, OSAMU. YOU WANT A FUTURE?
...
CLATCH
I'M LOCKING THE DOOR.
I SMELL SUMMER. HEH HEH.
AHH...

SNAG
YAWN...
WHERE'S TATSU-TOSHI?
HEY?
...
PLAYING DUMB?
YO! KOJI.
JANGLE
SLIDE



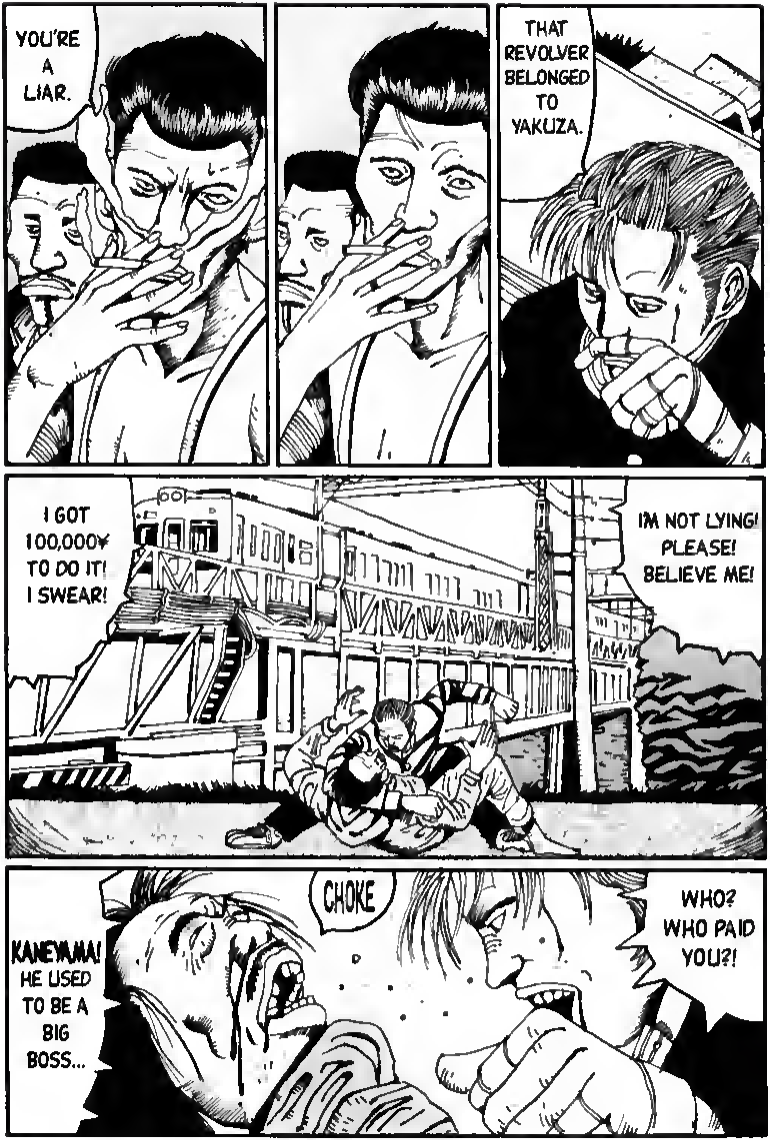
PANEL 2 CAPTION: (GUITAR) ARPEGGIO


?
CROSS
WHA?
HEY!

THWOP
GRUNT.
HEY, GIVE IT! SERIOUSLY!
THWAK
KICK
SLAP
THUNK
SMACK

ANYTHING HAPPEN RECENTLY THAT MOVED YOU?
SO KOJI...
FLICK
...
...
...
I WANNA HEAR
THERE MUST BE SOME-THING.
...
I MEAN, LIKE, D'YOU SCORE? YOU BEEN WITH A WOMAN?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MULL OVER IT

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT, ANYWAY?
YOU'RE FUNNY, KOJI.
GAHH!
BURST
FOUND HIM... FINALLY.
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
SNORT
TATSUTOSHI, S'UP?
WHO?


YOU'RE A LIAR.
THAT REVOLVER BELONGED TO YAKUZA.
I GOT 100,000¥ TO DO IT! I SWEAR!
I'M NOT LYING! PLEASE! BELIEVE ME!
KANEYAMA! HE USED TO BE A BIG BOSS...
CHOKE
WHO? WHO PAID YOU?!

HE WANTED SOMEONE TO TAKE HIS PLACE. ONE OF YOU THREE. THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
曹操孟德
HE GOT THE CANCER AND IT SPREAD...
HE USED TO WATCH YOU FROM HIS PENTHOUSE THROUGH A TELESCOPE. HE-HE LIKED YOU THREE.
HOW'D HE KNOW US, HUH?!
AIN'T NEVER HEARD OF A YAKUZA NAMED KANEYAMA, STUPID!
SLIDE
CMON
WHAT PENT-HOUSE?

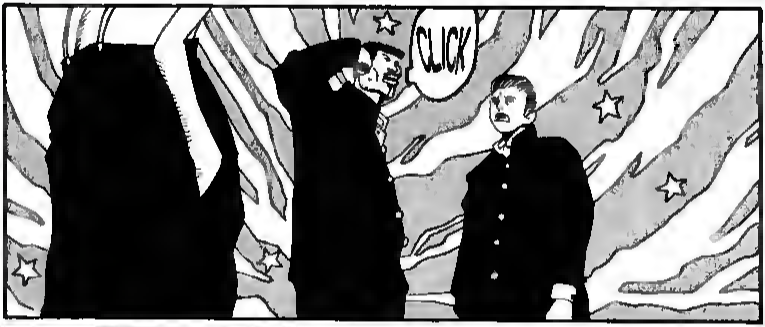
PANEL 1 SIGNAGE: SOUSOU MOUTOKU [NAME OF CHARACTER IN ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS

WANNA GO?
MAYBE.
NONE OF US HAVE DADS.
MAYBE HE WANTED US TO BE, LIKE, BLOOD BROTHERS?
WHY'D HE LEAVE US THE GUN?
HE'S PROBABLY DEAD, ANYWAY.
WELL... NO.

PANEL 7: FX: WHSSSSSSHHHH [WIND BLOWING]

OR MAYBE... MAYBE IT WAS JUST A PRANK.
HUH?!
AMAZ-ING...
?
ANYWAY, LET'S GO TO THE BEACH.
WE'LL TOUGH HELL AND GO BACK HOME.
?

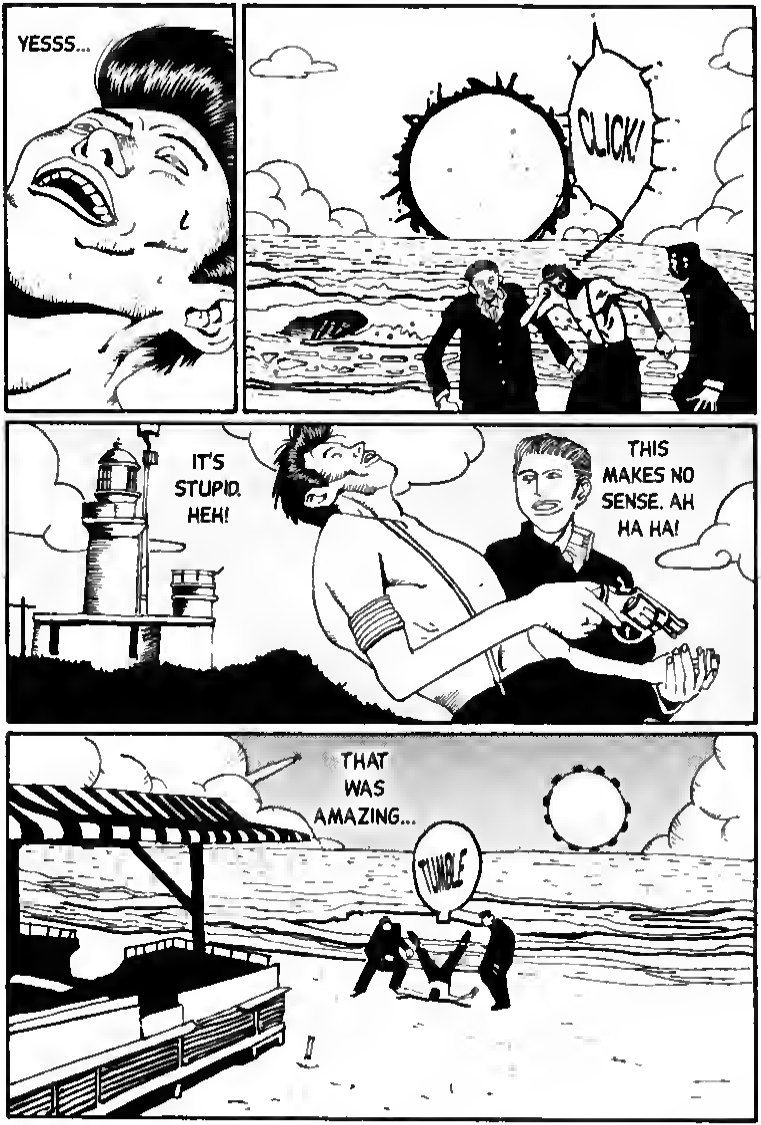
PANEL TFX FERRATI


CLICK

IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE...
...WE'RE LIVING.

THEN MAYBE...
CLICK
IF WE DO IT THINKING WE'LL DIE...
CLICK
PHEW...

HA HA HA! DAMN STRAIGHT.
"YOU'RE NOT A KID ANYMORE."
"START THINKING"
ONE LAST BULLET...
CLICK
FOR A SECOND YOU WON'T NOTICE
I WONDER IF IT HURTS
I GUESS
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP
FLAP
FLAP
THE OLD LADY WILL CRY...
FLAP
FLAP
I CAN HEAR MY HEART BEAT.
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
THUMP
PANEL 6 SIGNAGE: KITANO HIGH SCHOOL


YESSS...
CLICK!
IT'S STUPID. HEH!
THIS MAKES NO SENSE. AH HA HA!
THAT WAS AMAZING...
TUMBLE

PANEL 1 SIGNAGE: CLAM RICE

PANEL 2 SIGNAGE (RIGHT TO LEFT) RAMEN FRIED NOODLES (SMALL TEXT AT BOTTOM OF THIRD BANNER) RAMEN SAKE BEER HOUSE OF SAKE
PANEL 3 FX SPLASH

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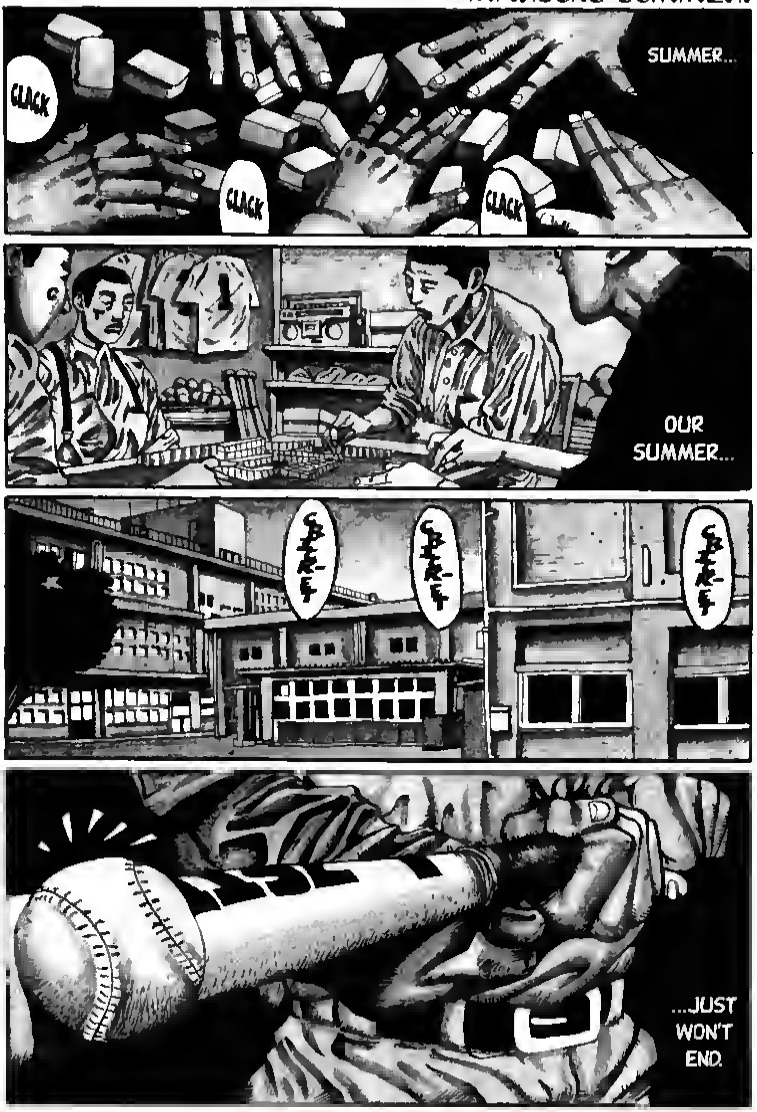
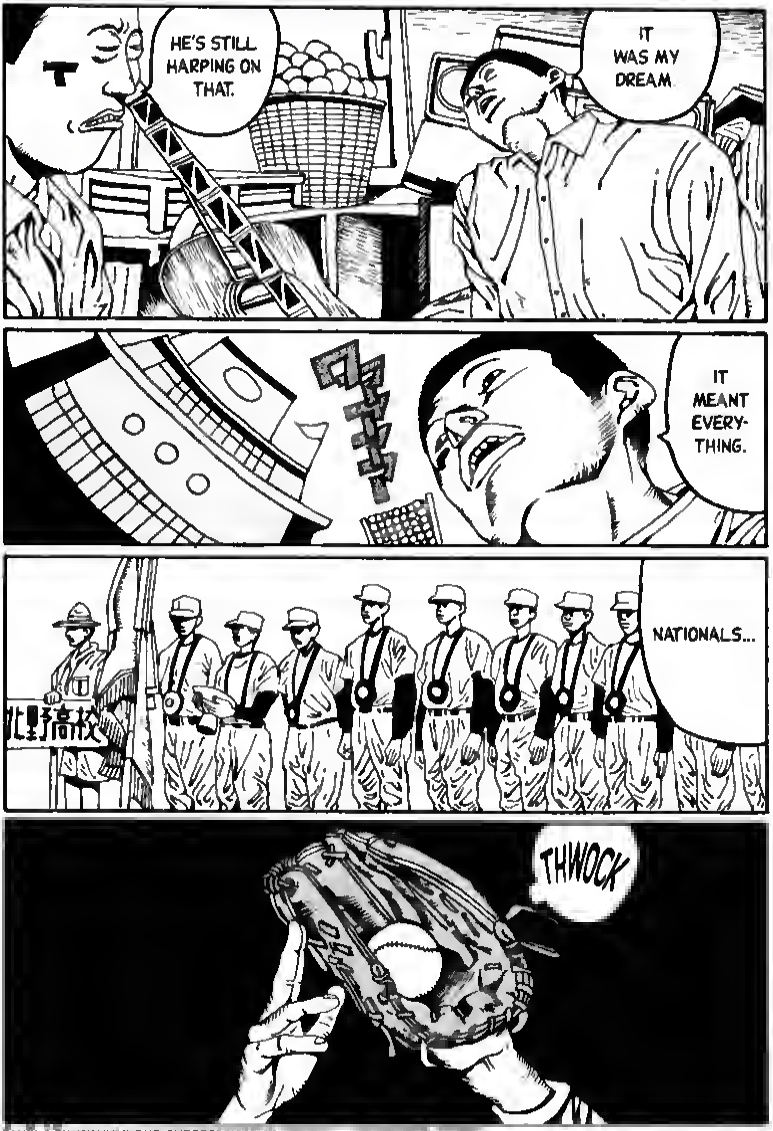

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
SUMMER...
OUR SUMMER...
CRICKET
CRICKET
CRICKET
....JUST WON'T END.

SEIKO
UMPIRE
MAHJONG SUMMER
TEXT ON BAT: NATIONALS

CRRK-ET
God save the Kwantle
CRRK-ET
RON...
CRRK-ET
DAMN, ACE! YOU'RE WINNING ALL BY YOURSELF
LET'S SEE... TOI TOI DORA DORA...
WE'RE HERE TO FORGET, RIGHT?
DON'T BRING UP BASEBALL, ACE.
HE PITCHES HIS FIRST BALL...!!
...WHEN WE LOST AT BASE-BALL?
WHAT'S THE POINT IN WINNING AT MAHJONG,

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI [TO THE RIGHT OF 999] NATIONAL HERO [FAR LEFT] FEUDAL ERA



PANEL 2 FX: WAHH! [LOUD CHEERS] SIGNAGE IN PANEL 4: KITANO HIGH SCHOOL

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI BASEBALL CLUB
SIGNAGE IN PANEL 5 FINE MAN

CLACK
RON.
WHEN ACE IS HOT, HE'S SCARY.
HUH!
OKAY, OKAY. YOU'RE GOOD.
MENZEN DORA DORA, SO 12,000.
FORGET IT...
DAMN.
AND THE CENTERFIELDER LOSES ALL BY HIMSELF, MINUS 8!
...
TIME WE TURNED IN?
IT'S COLD.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

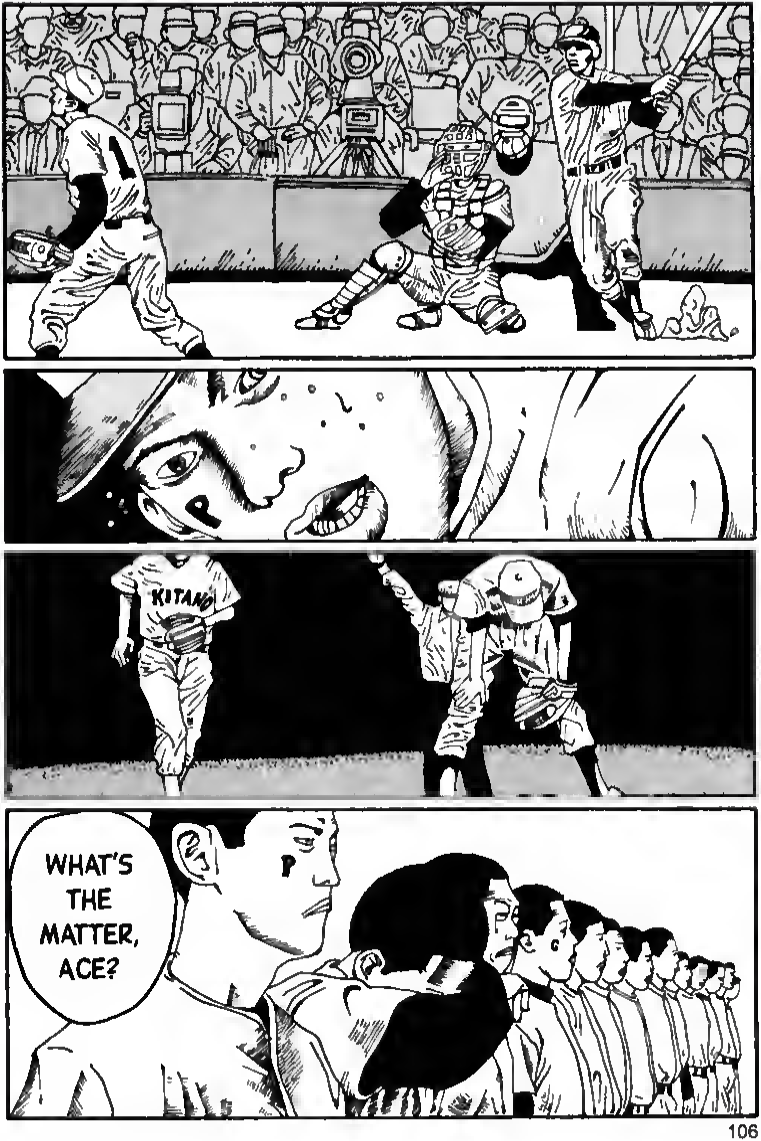
A CURVEBALL WOULD'VE WON IT.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CENTER?
HUH?
100 YEARS WENT BY BEFORE URASHIMA TARO RETURNED HOME FROM THE DRAGON PALACE.
HE SPENT ALL THAT TIME SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD...
AND? WHAT ABOUT URA-SHIMA?
CUT IT OUT, ACE.
A CURVEBALL WOULD'VE WON IT...

PANEL 1FX: AHHHHHHHHH!! PANEL 2 TRANSLATION NOTE: JAPANESE VERSION OF RIP VAN WINKLE--URASHIMA TARO HELPS TURTLE WHO LATER TAKES HIM UNDER THE SEA TO BEAUTIFUL PALACE

HE WAS LUCKY.
WHEN TARO OPENED THE TREASURE CHEST, HE TURNED INTO ASHES
C'MON, THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW
AND THIS PIT IS THE DRAGON PALACE?
THERE! PON!
IT'S LIKE TARO..
WHAT'S WRONG, ACE?
HMM
AHHH...
GEEZ
AGARI!
WHAT A GUY!
PANEL 7 SIGNAGE TOP RIGHT KING OF (CUT OFF) BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT ADS 1) ASICS 2) SECURITIES (CUT OFF) AND 3) DRINK BEER
PANEL 7 FX WHACK

PANEL 1FX RAHHH!

I'M GONNA TAKE OVER MY DAD'S PUB AND MAKE DELIVERIES
THE SCOUT WAS HERE ..FROM LOTTE?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO AFTER GRADUATE?
SO, ACE...
HUH?
IF THERE WAS ONE PITCH YOU COULDN'T TAKE BACK...
...
THAT'S A CHI.
WELL, YOU ARE THE OLDEST SON.
COULD YOU FIND A WAY...
TO TAKE IT BACK?


KITANO
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ACE?

PANEL 7 GRAFFITI ALL THE WAY TO NATIONALS!
PANEL 7 SIGN BASEBALL CLUB

PANEL 1 FX: SIZZLE

PANEL 6 GRAFFITI [ON BLACKBOARD] SUMMER VACATION

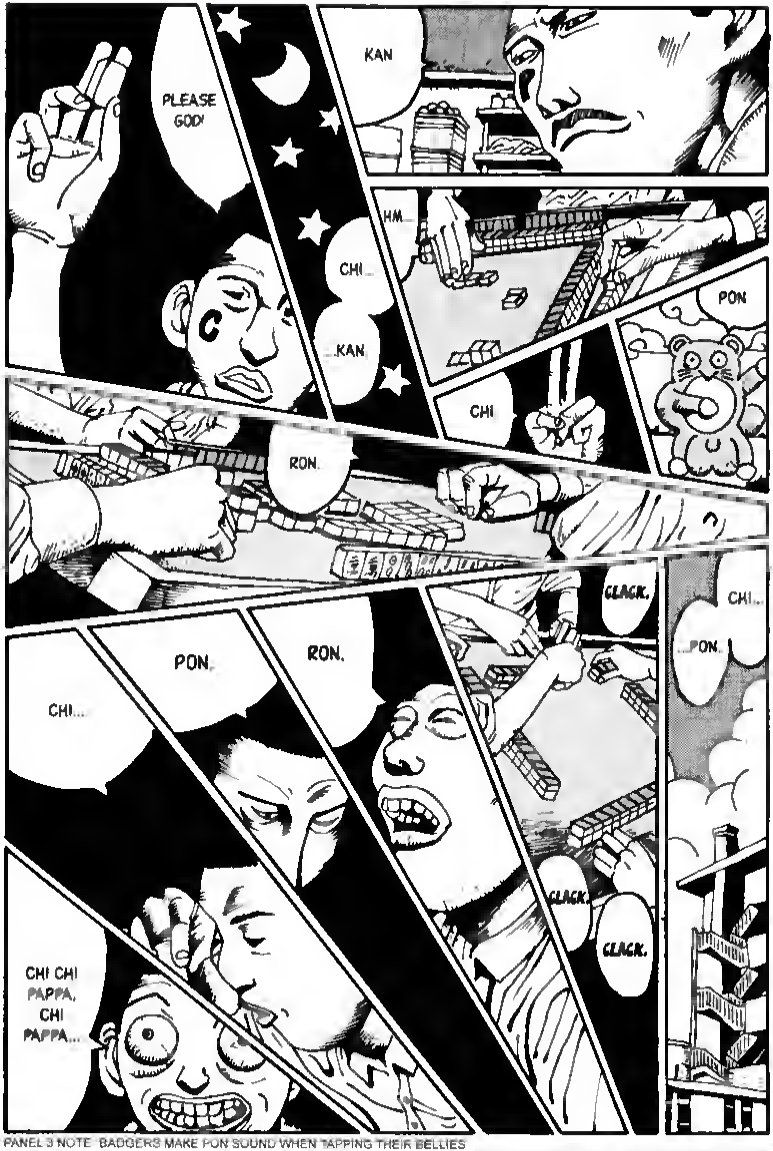
PANEL 1 NOTE: HE HAS A WINNING HAND AND IS ABOUT TO TURN OVER THE TILES BUT THEY FALL

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DISAPPOINTED, ACE.
THAT'S ENOUGH...
IF YOU...
SO YOU IGNORED WHAT THE SIGNAL WAS. SO WHAT?
IF YOU KEEP HARPING ON IT...
THIS SUMMER'S NEVER GONNA END.

PANEL 5 BILLBOARD XANAX
PANEL 6 FX OHHH

BALL.
...
IT'S THE HEAT
HE'S TRIPPING OUT
IF THERE WAS ONE PITCH YOU COULDN'T TAKE BACK...
HEE HEE HEE...
SHALL WE CALL IT A DAY?
MAYBE CENTER'S GOT IT RIGHT
DAMN, I NEED A BATH AND A SHAVE.
OUT!
COULD YOU FIND A WAY..

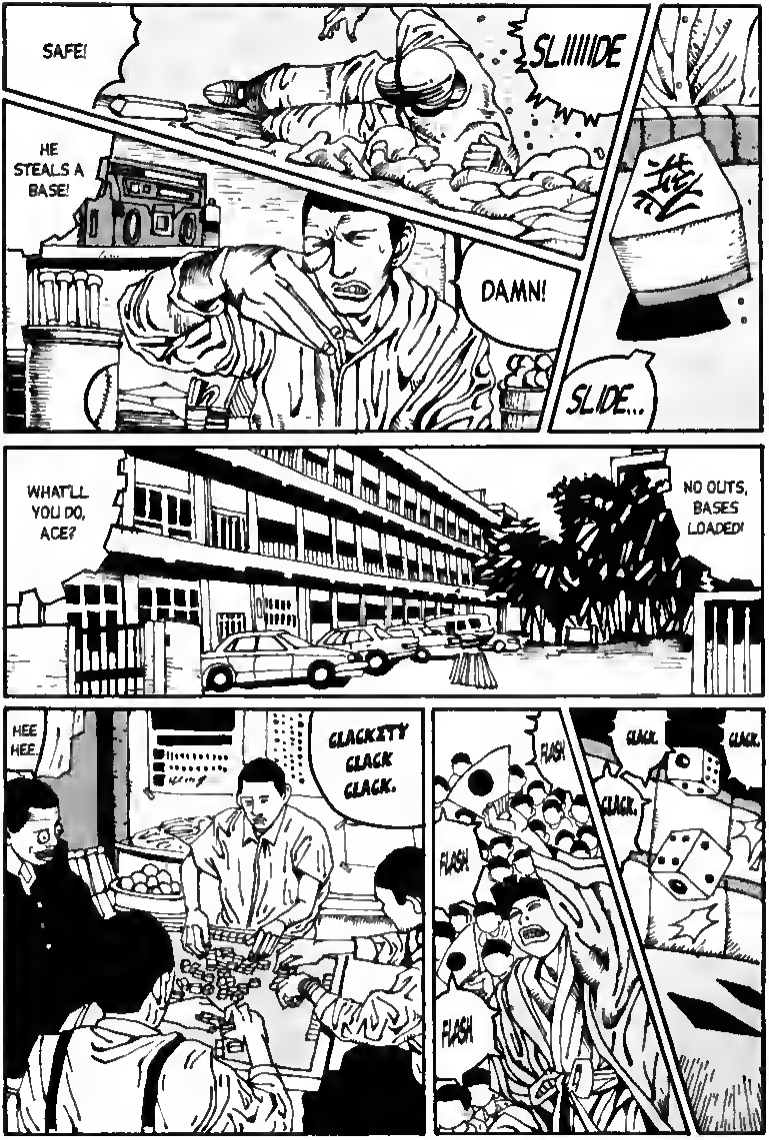
PANEL 3 LABEL: [ON CAN] COLA



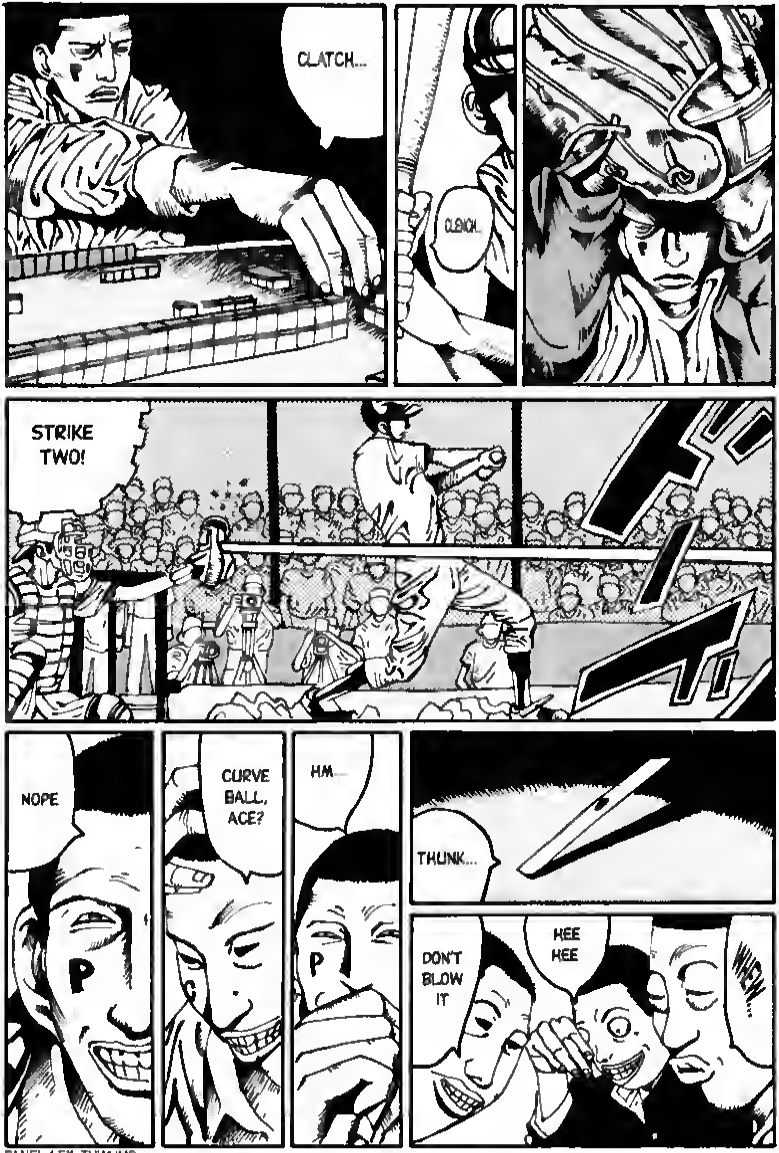
PANEL 3 NOTE: BADGERS MAKE PON SOUND WHEN TAPPING THEIR BELLIES
PANEL 13 NOTE: CENTER S SINGING A CHILDREN S FOLK SONG ABOUT SPARROWS

PANEL 1 FX <CRICK-ET> <CRICK-ET> <CRICK-ET>

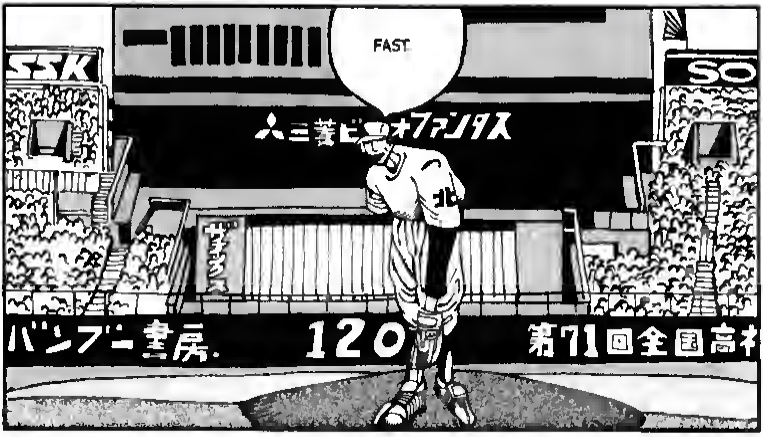
PANEL 4 FX OHHH

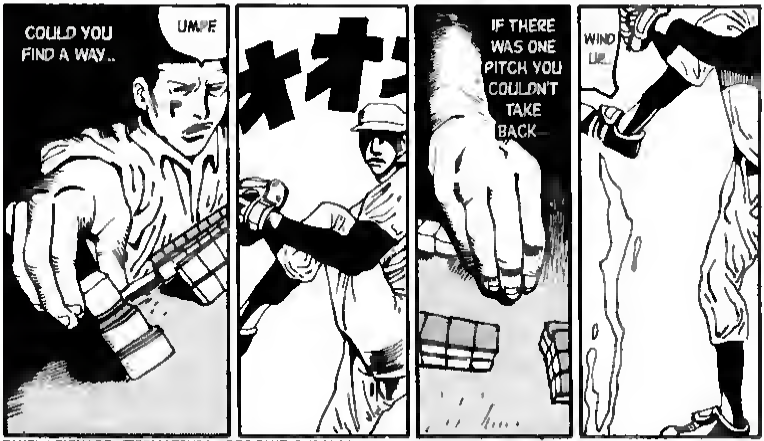

SAFE!
SLIIIIIDE
HE STEALS A BASE!
DAMN!
SLIDE...
WHAT'LL YOU DO, ACE?
NO OUTS, BASES LOADED!
HEE HEE.
CLACKITY CLACK CLACK.
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
CLACK.
CLACK.
CLACK.

PANEL 5 FX OHHHH

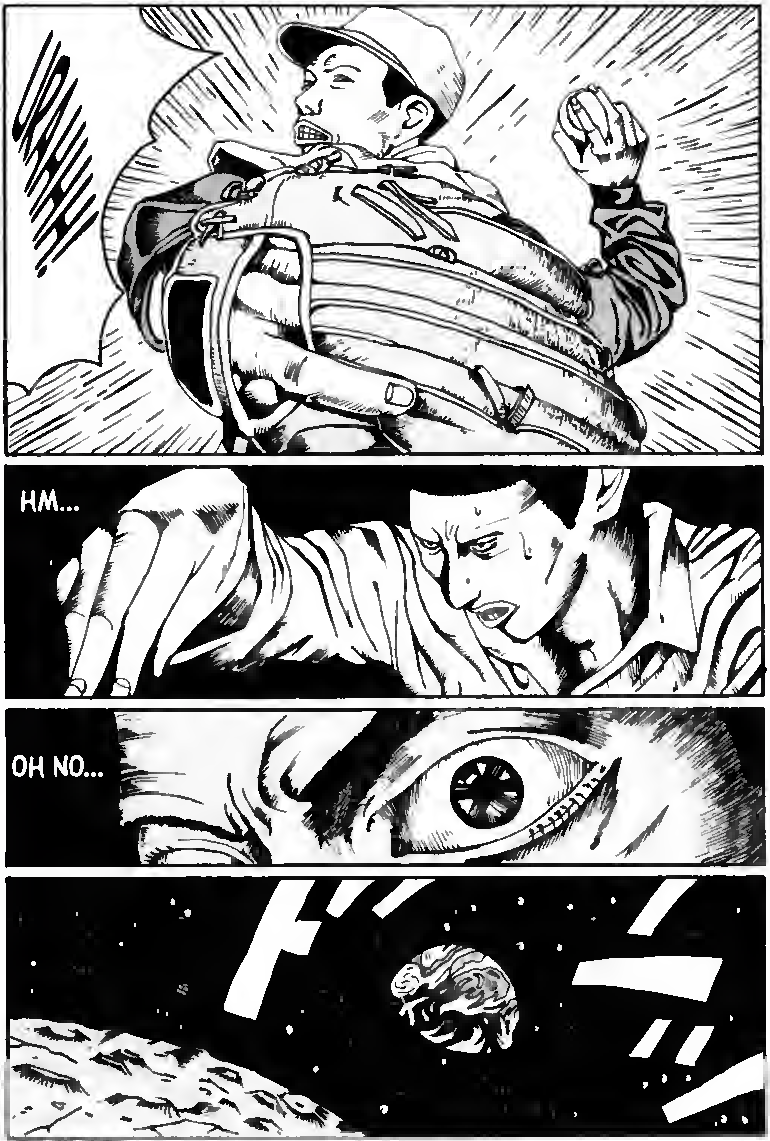


PANEL 4 FX: THWUMP



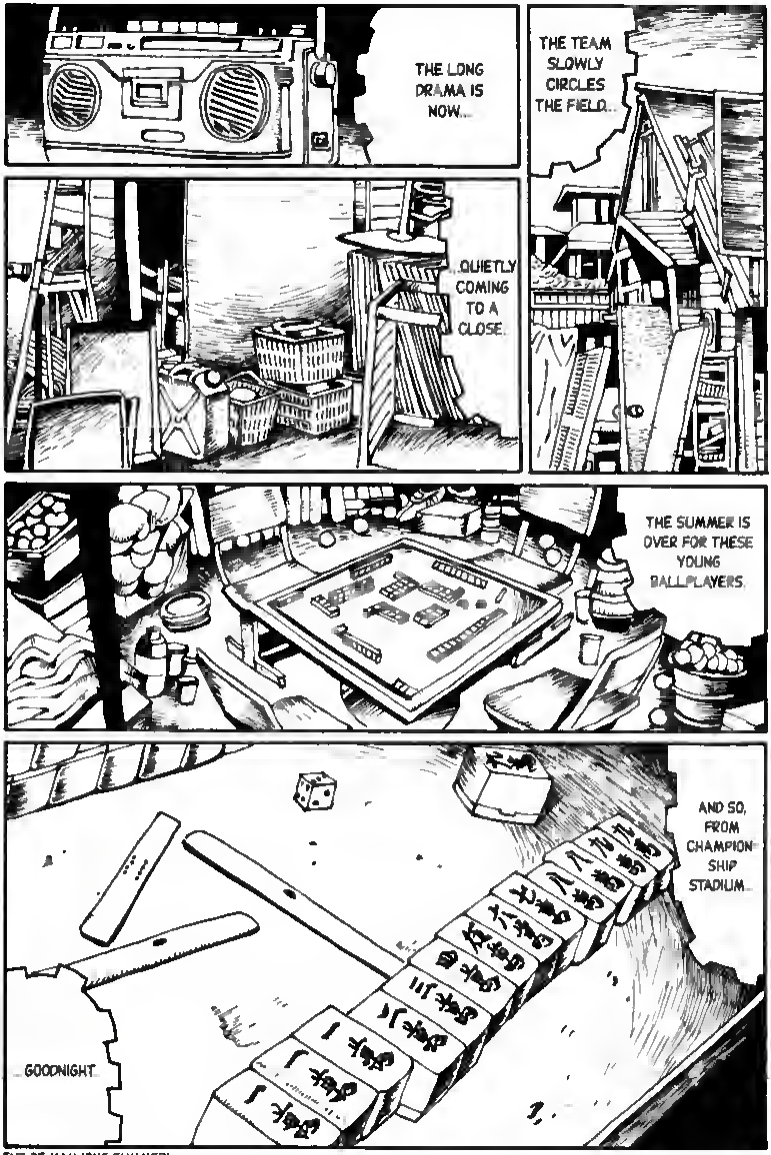


PANEL 1 SIGNAGE [TOP] MITSUBA VIDEO FANTAS [BOTTOM RIGHT] 71ST NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS [BOTTOM LEFT] BAMBOO BOOKSTORE PANEL 2 AND 5 FX OHHH



PANEL 4 FX CRACK

CREAK CRACK SKRICH
BUZZ BUZZ
CREAK CRACK SKRICH
SUMMER'S OVER.
HEARD THEY QUIT MAH-JONG.
BASEBALL CLUB'S BEEN QUIET LATELY...
THE CHAMPION-SHIPS ARE OVER.
YEAH? THEY QUIT?
SMOOCH


THE LONG DRAMA IS NOW...
THE TEAM SLOWLY CIRCLES THE FIELD...
...QUIETLY COMING TO A CLOSE.
THE SUMMER IS OVER FOR THESE YOUNG BALLPLAYERS.
AND SO, FROM CHAMPIONSHIP STADIUM...
...GOODNIGHT.

END OF MAHJONG SUMMER!

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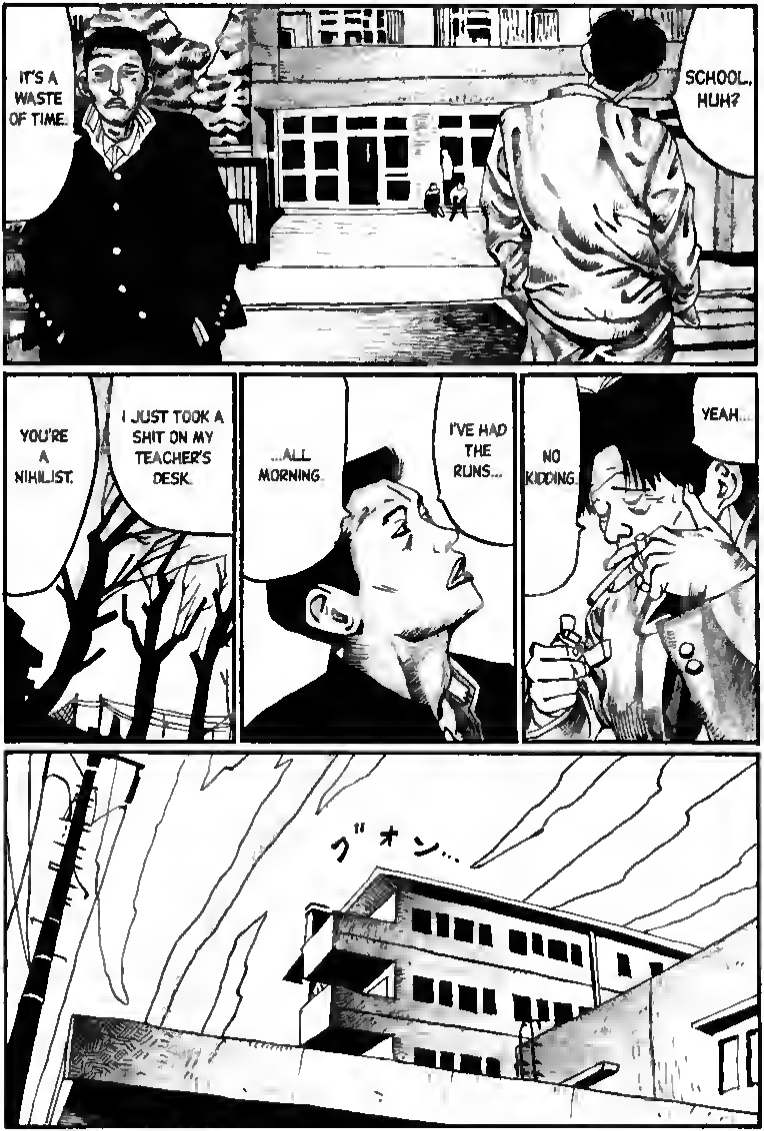
SUZUKI-SAN

PANEL1 SIGNAGE: KITANO HIGH SCHOOL



PANELS FX: BONG [SCHOOL CHIME]

..YEAH.
FUCK..
YOU WANNA JOIN UP?
NAH.
ARE WE GOING TO... HEAD-QUARTERS OR SOMEPLACE?
FROM THE WEST...
TONS OF 'EM.
YOU GOT FLIES?
I'M GONNA GO BUY SOME FLY SWATTERS. KEEP ME COMPANY.
?

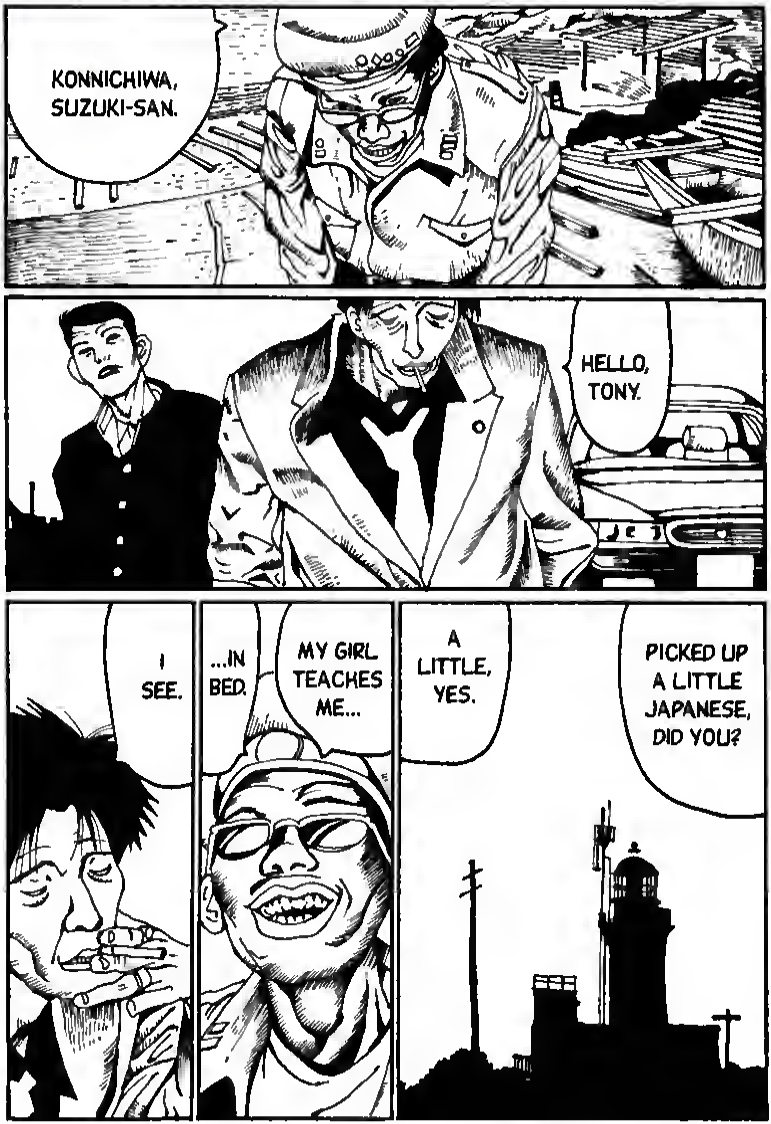
'SUP
'SUP I'M KIMURA
YESSIR
LET'S GO
VROOM
YESSIR
HE'S NEW. LOOK AFTER HIM
..THAT'S THE SCHOOL BELL..
HEH HEH

...
HEY KID, YOU SHOULDN'T BE SELLING THAT SHIT HERE.
HUH...?

HMM
JUST WONDERING WHY ME? WHY ME THAT DAY?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
I-I DON'T HAVE FRIENDS
YOU ALONE?
YOU NEED A GANG FOR SOMETHING.
SOJIRO SUZUKI
TAISEI COMPANY
HERE, TAKE THIS.

I TOOK A LIKING TO THEM.
THOSE FISH EYES OF YOURS...
...
WHOSE EYES?
HUH?
THE EYES.
COUGH! COUGH! HACK!
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
YES.

TATOOS [UPPER LEFT ARM] JUNKO FUJI IS MY LIFE (JUNKO FUJI WAS AN ACTRESS IN THE 70S KNOWN FOR ROLES AS A FEMALE YAKUZA BOSS)
[LOWER LEFT ARM] PASSION FOR LIFE [ON CHEST] SHOWA TRAGEDY [ON RIGHT SHOULDER] KEN TAKAKURA IS COOL JAPANESE STAR WHOMADE HIS FEATURE-FILM DEBUT IN TOO LATE THE HERO(1970) [RIGHT ARM] HIDEJIRO HANADA

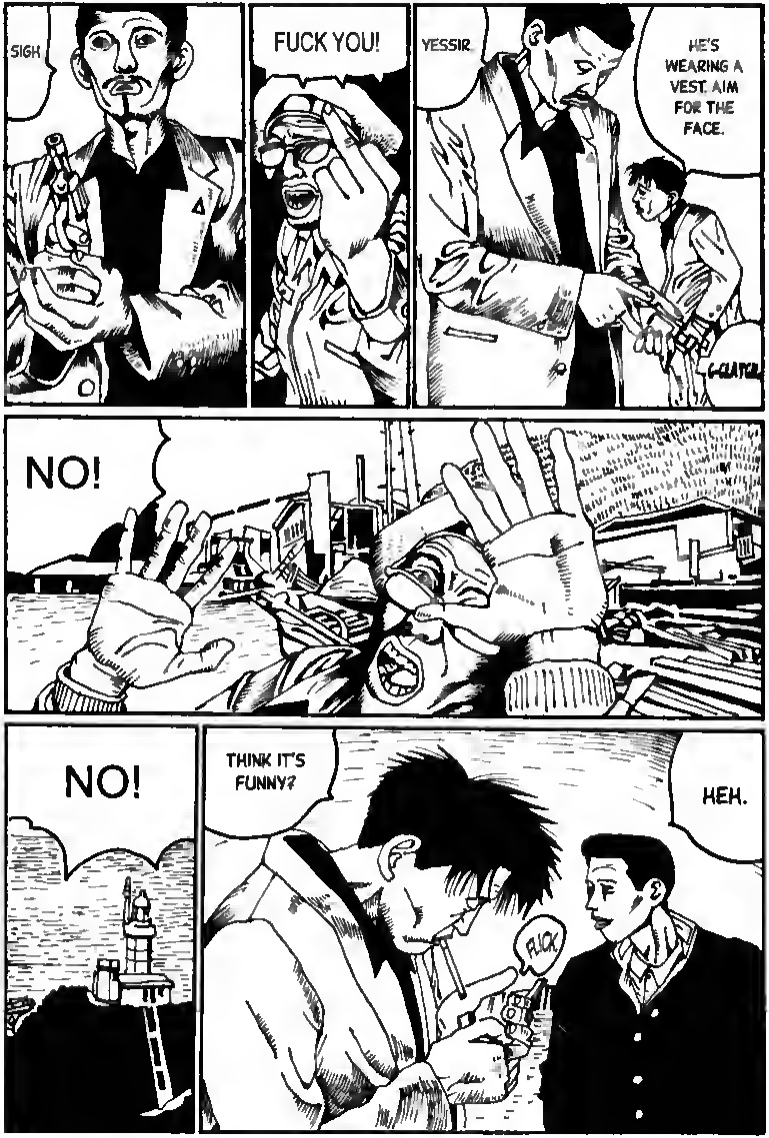

KONNICHIWA, SUZUKI-SAN.
HELLO, TONY.
PICKED UP A LITTLE JAPANESE, DID YOU?
A LITTLE, YES.
MY GIRL TEACHES ME...
...IN BED.
I SEE.

PANEL 5 FX RRRRR [PLANE ENGINE]

PANEL 7 FX: RUMBLE [THUNDER]

PANEL 3 FX: RUMBLE CLAP

Speak English!
Shut Up!
PEOPLE WHO TRY TO CATCH TWO RABBITS DON'T EVEN GET ONE.
I Should Kill You!
?
...IT'S FROWNED UPON, YOU KNOW.
TURNING INFORMANT, SNITCHING...
What?

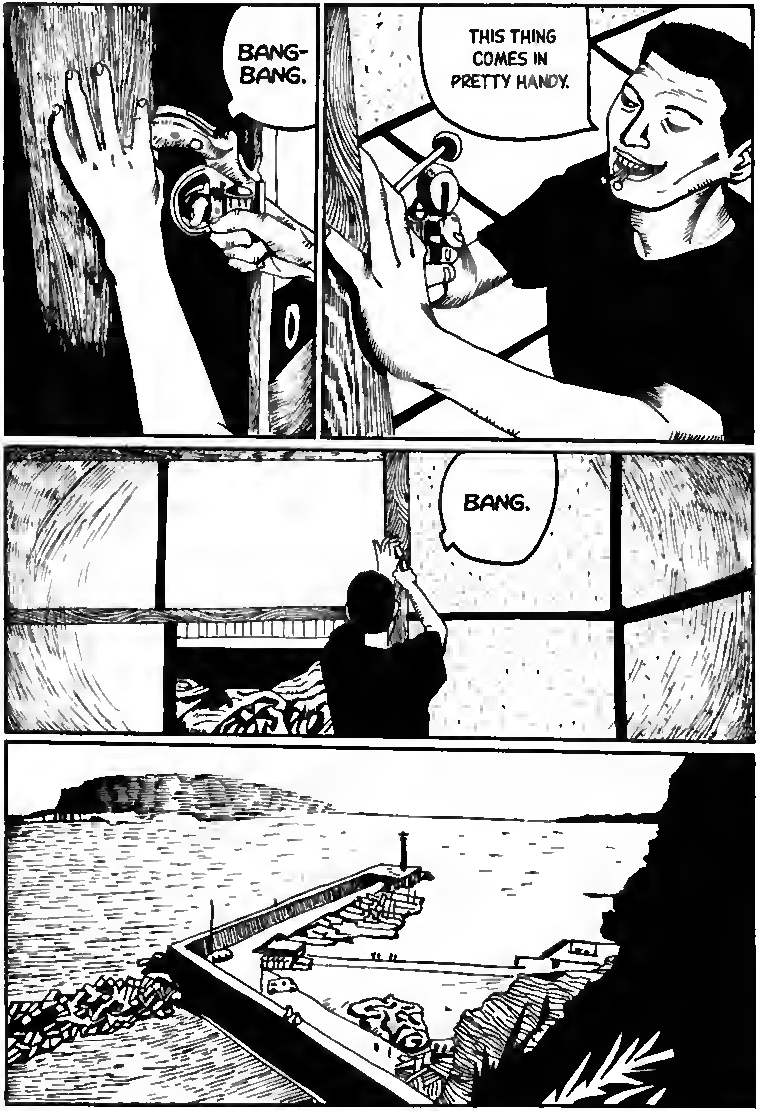

SIGH
FUCK YOU!
YESSIR.
HE'S WEARING A VEST. AIM FOR THE FACE.
C-CLICK
NO!
NO!
THINK IT'S FUNNY?
HEH.
FUCK

BANG.
...
OH..
THEY'RE CREMATED.
DO YOU DUMP BODIES IN TOKYO BAY?
WHAT—?
SO... DO YOU...?

...
MMM
THANK YOU, SIR
OH .?
MR. SUZUKI, NO YOU CAN'T GIVE THAT TO THE KID.
HUH?
BUT
THE GUN TAKE IT.
ERR YES?
KIMURA

SNORT.
NO BULLETS.
HUH...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GONNA DISAP-PEAR
IF THE BOSS FINDS OUT—
I'LL BACK YOU UP..
THAT LIFE DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
HERE. HERE'S SOME MOVING-OUT MONEY.
YOU'D BETTER GET OUTTA THAT HOUSE OF YOURS.
IF YOU'RE GONNA KILL YOURSELF A RAZOR BLADE'LL WORK.

PANEL 4 SIGNAGE: [NAME OF FILE CABINET] KIMURA


BANG-
BANG.
THIS THING
COMES IN
PRETTY HANDY.
BANG.

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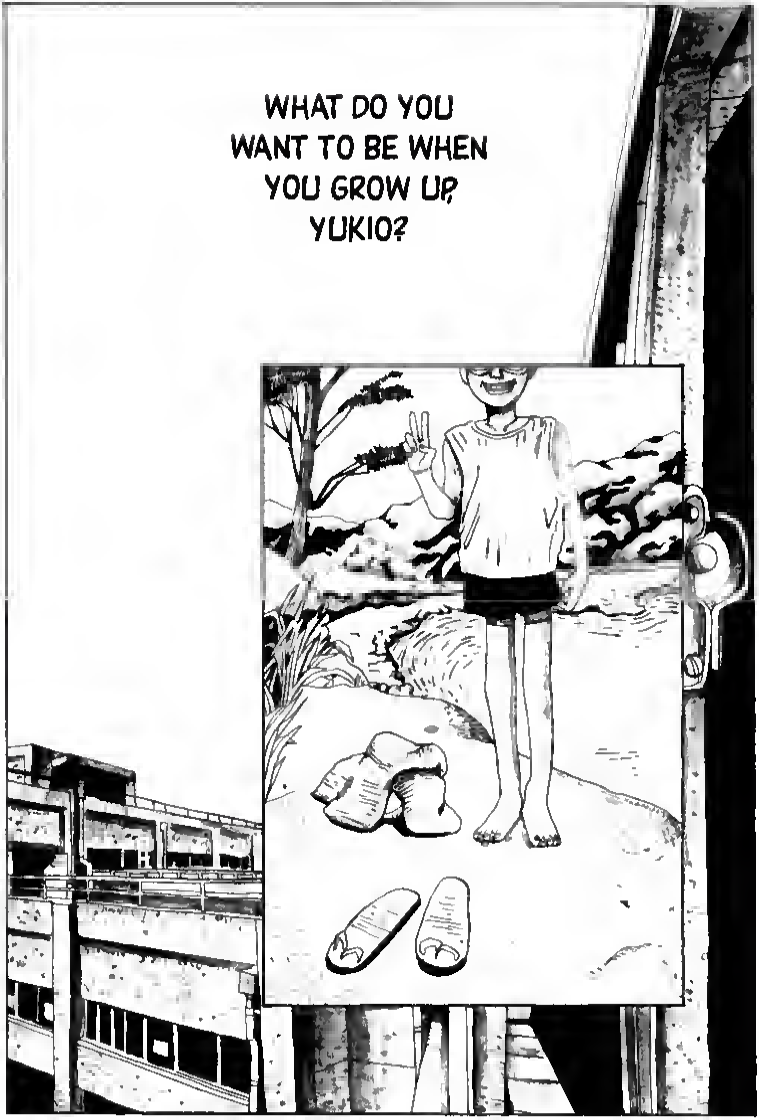
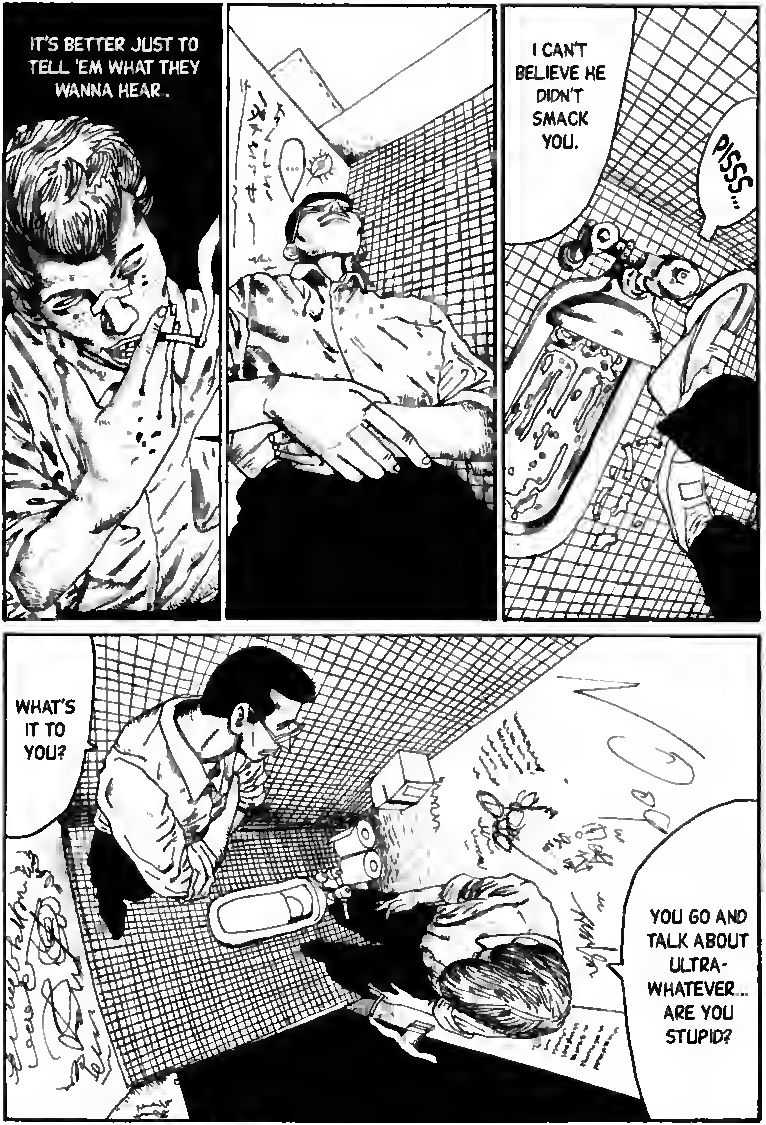

WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO BE WHEN
YOU GROW UP,
YUKIO?

PEACE

GRAFFITI [TOP RIGHT - ON CHEEK] PEACE
[TOP CENTER] LITERALLY: YOROSHIKU (HOW'S IT GOING?) IS WRITTEN AS NIGHT-DEW-DEATH-PAIN -- MOTORBIKE GANG SLANG

HEY, TEACH...
YEAH?
READY TO JOIN THE JUNIORS AGAIN NEXT YEAR?
YOU MUST REALLY LOVE IT HERE, HUH?
YOUR GRADES WERE ALWAYS BAD. NOW YOU'VE TARNISHED YOUR RECORD...
AT THIS RATE YOU WON'T GRADUATE, YUKIO.
WHAT KIND OF GRADES DO I NEED TO JOIN UP?
YOU KNOW THE ULTRAMAN SQUAD?
HEE HEE
GRRR.

PANEL 1 TEXT CONFERENCE ROOM


IT'S BETTER JUST TO TELL 'EM WHAT THEY WANNA HEAR.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T SMACK YOU.
PISSS...
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
YOU GO AND TALK ABOUT ULTRA-WHATEVER... ARE YOU STUPID?

PANEL 2 GRAFFITI: DAMN! GO TO HELL!

PANEL 2 GRAFFITI [FAR LEFT] TRUE BROTHERS [ABOVE BIG COMICS] BLACKMAIL
PANEL 4 FX "PA PA PA PA PA PA [MOTORBIKE HORNS] PA PA PAH [MOTORBIKE HORNS]
PANEL 4 WRITING [ON BACK OF MOTORBIKE SEAT] NAMU [PARTIAL OF "NAMU AMIDA BUTSU" BUDDHIST CHANT
PANEL 5 GRAFFITI [ON WALL] DIVINE PUNISHMENT

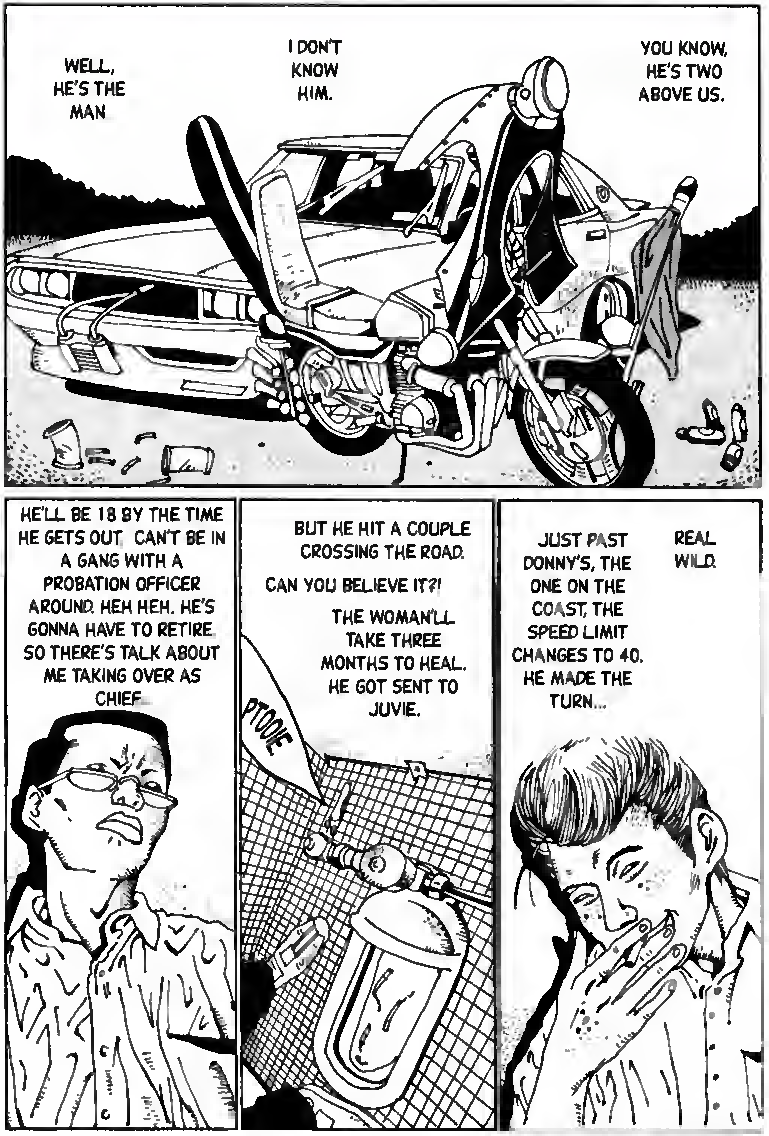
...
WELL, MIZUGUCHI LIKES ME SO I'LL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU. HEH-HEH.
YOU CAN BE MY LIEUTENANT.
HE WANTS ME TO TAKE OVER HIS TURF NEXT. HEH HEH.
BOSS MIZUGUCHI...
SLOOSH.
PTOOIE
WE'RE GONNA TAKE OVER THE WORLD, MAN. HEH HEH.
YUKIO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

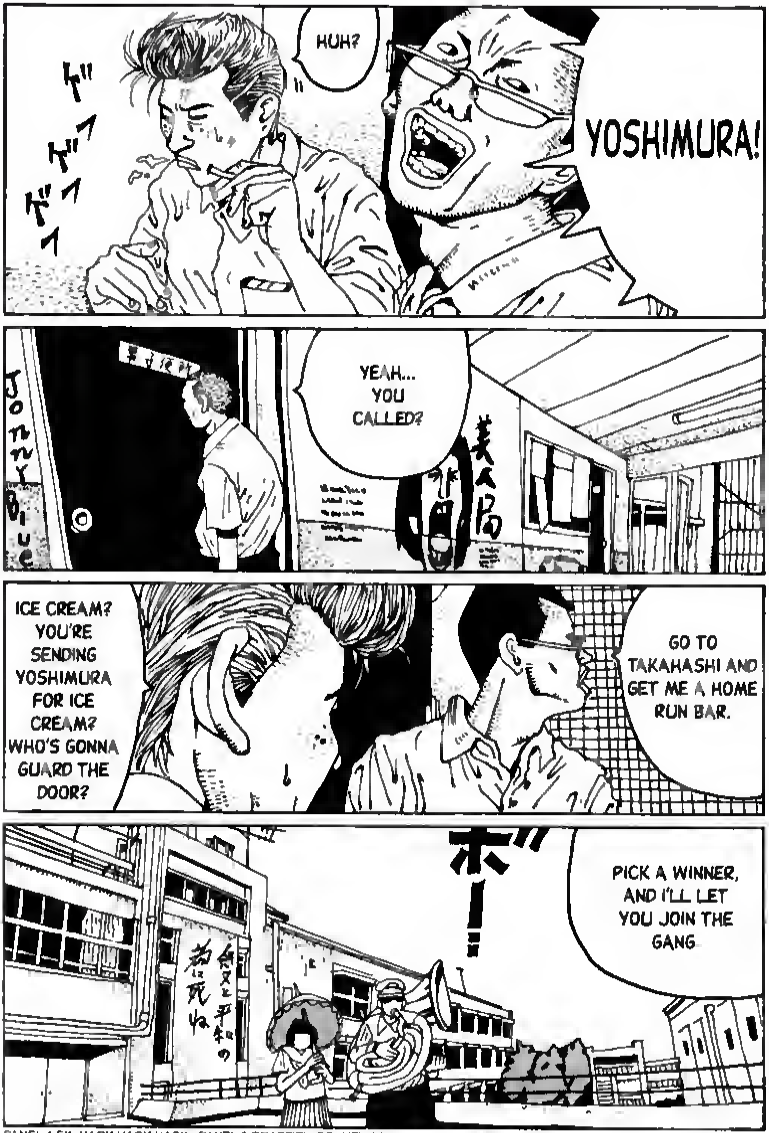
PANEL 1 GRAFFITI: THE AGE OF HIROSHI SEKIGUCHI—POPULAR TELEVISION TALK SHOW HOST
[UNDER THE DRAWING OF BIKE] THE WORLD'S FULL OF CRAP

PANEL 1GRAFFITI BEAUTY SQUAD IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT CLAP YOUR HANDS
GRAFFITI [ONLY WRITING BETWEEN THE TWO MEN IS LEGIBLE] THE AGE OF HIROSHI SEKIGUCHI

CAN'T STAND THAT GUY. I THOUGHT HE HAD POTENTIAL. GOT A LIGHT?
YECH
NOTHING?! LOOK SHARP ASSHOLE! OR I'LL KILL YOU!
?
IT'S OVER FOR KUJO.
HMM.
FLICK

PANEL 1 GRAFFITI YOROSHIKU –SEE EARLIER NOTE (HORIZONTAL) TOKYO YOMIURI GIANTS PANEL 2 SIGNAGE MEN
PANEL 5 GRAFFITI THE AGE OF HIROSHI SEKIGUCHI


WELL, HE'S THE MAN
I DON'T KNOW HIM.
YOU KNOW, HE'S TWO ABOVE US.
HE'LL BE 18 BY THE TIME HE GETS OUT. CAN'T BE IN A GANG WITH A PROBATION OFFICER AROUND. HEH HEH. HE'S GONNA HAVE TO RETIRE. SO THERE'S TALK ABOUT ME TAKING OVER AS CHIEF.
BUT HE HIT A COUPLE CROSSING THE ROAD.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
THE WOMAN'LL TAKE THREE MONTHS TO HEAL. HE GOT SENT TO JUVIE.
PTOOIE
JUST PAST DONNY'S, THE ONE ON THE COAST, THE SPEED LIMIT CHANGES TO 40. HE MADE THE TURN...
REAL WILD.


ゲ"
ゲ"
ゲ"
HUH?
YOSHIMURA!
JOHNY BLUE
YEAH... YOU CALLED?
ICE CREAM? YOU'RE SENDING YOSHIMURA FOR ICE CREAM? WHO'S GONNA GUARD THE DOOR?
GO TO TAKAHASHI AND GET ME A HOME RUN BAR.
ボ"!!
PICK A WINNER, AND I'LL LET YOU JOIN THE GANG

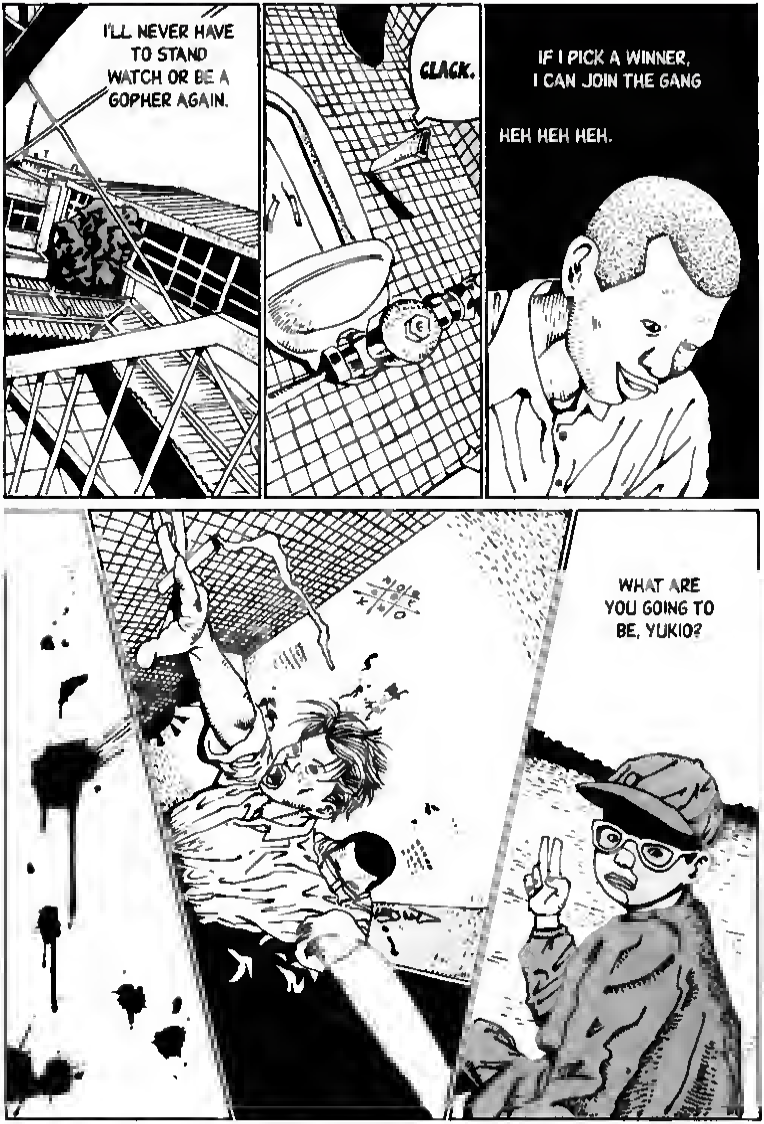
PANEL 1 FX HACK HACK HACK PANEL 2 GRAFFITI BEAUTY SQUAD PANEL 2 SIGNAGE MEN
PANEL 4 GRAFFITI DIE FOR LOVE AND PEACE PANEL 4 FX HONK!

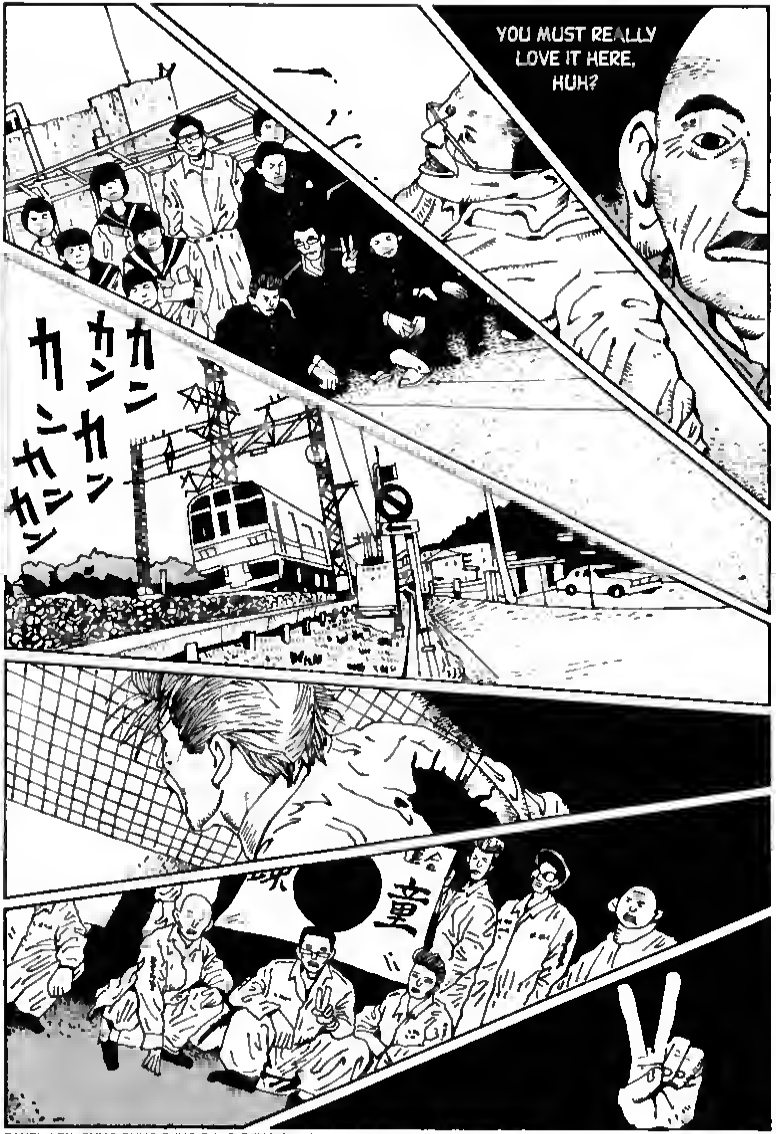
ROLL
BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF I PUT IN A WORD, OF COURSE.
YOU CAN'T RECRUIT HIM WITHOUT CLEARING IT WITH THE TOP.
YUKIO, DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.
BOSS LIKES ME. HEH HEH.

MIZUGUCHI IS AMAZING.
AMAZING. THE GUY'S APOLOGIZING LIKE CRAZY, BUT HE WON'T LISTEN.
PTOOIE
TEETH SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE...
GUY'S IN THIS 50'S STYLE, SOUPED-UP RIDER...
SO HE DRAGS HIM OUT AND BEATS THE SHIT OUT OF HIM.
WE WERE CRUISING THE COAST THE OTHER DAY AND THIS GUY AT A STOP SIGN GAVE US THE LOOK.
MAN, IT WAS CRAZY. THE BOSS IS SOMETHING ELSE.
THIS OTHER TIME, WE WERE OUT LOOKING FOR NISHIKO STUDENTS AND THE COPS CAME...

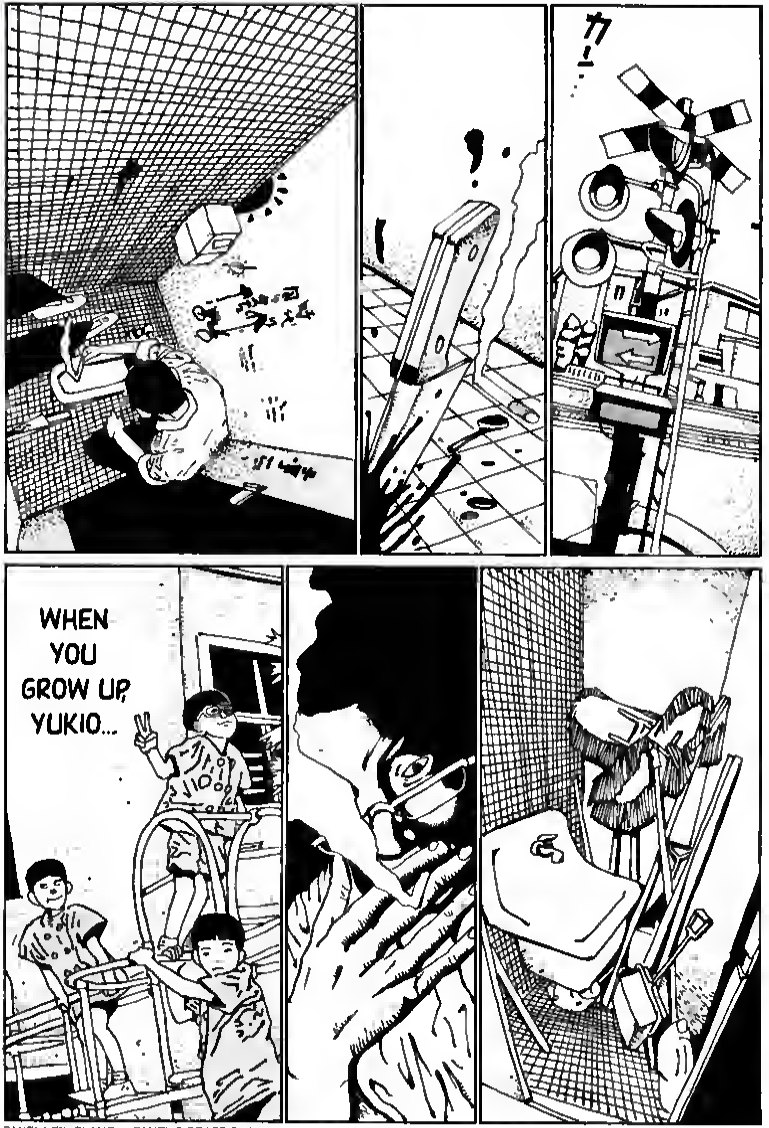
WHAT?
WANNA DIE?
ARE YOU LISTENING? HELLO?!
HUH?
HELLO! EARTH TO YUKIO!
YOU WANNA DIE?

PANEL 1 SIGNAGE: TAKAHASHI
PANEL 3 GRAFFITI: [RIGHT VERTICAL] YOROSHIKU. SEE EARLIER NOTE
GRAFFITI: [TOP HORIZONTAL] TOKYO YOMIURI GIANTS


I'LL NEVER HAVE TO STAND WATCH OR BE A GOPHER AGAIN.
CLACK.
IF I PICK A WINNER, I CAN JOIN THE GANG
HEH HEH HEH.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE, YUKIO?



PANEL 4 FX CHUG CHUG CHUG CHUG CHUG CHUG PANEL 6 SIGNAGE [PARTIAL] = HALL



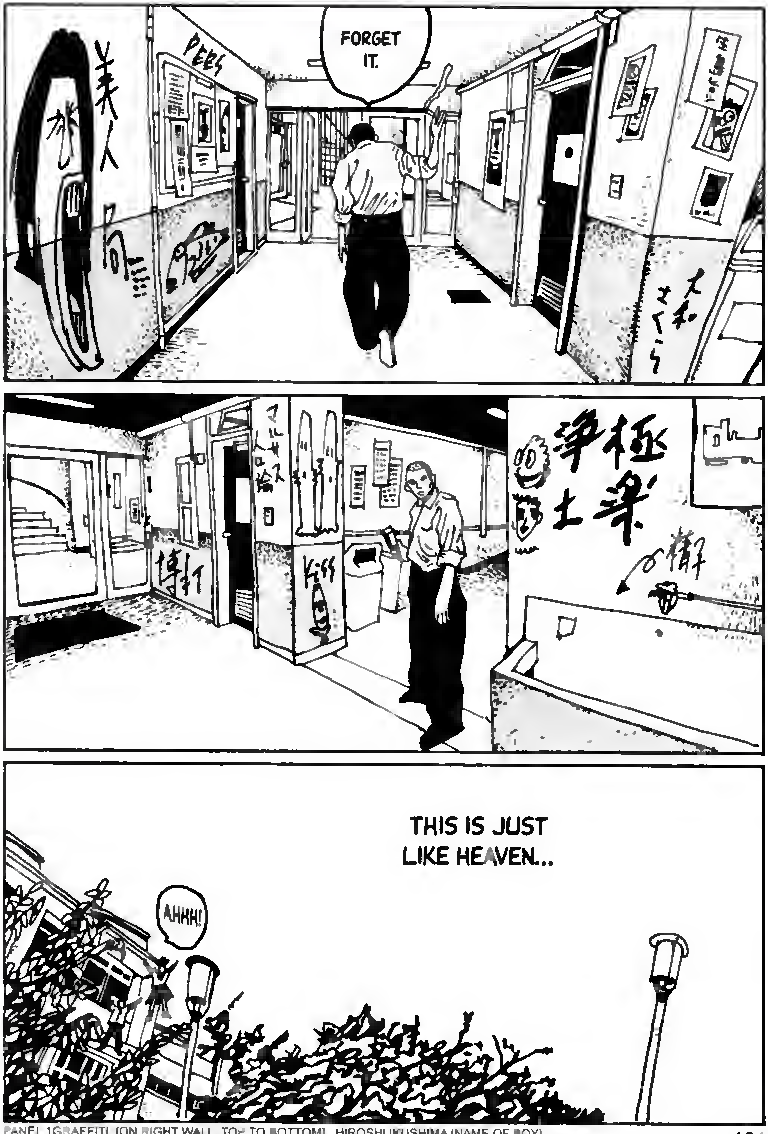
PANEL1 FX: CLANG PANEL 3 GRAFFITI: THE AGE OF HIROSHI SEKIGUCHI

YOU MAKE ME SICK.
YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
...EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT IF SOMEONE PUSHED ME, I COULD FLY.
HEH HEH.
GOOD ENOUGH REASON, HUH?
IT'S HOT.

PANEL GRAFFITI [TOP, HORIZONTAL] LIFE IS FILLED WITH PAIN AND VALLEYS
[VERTICAL] THE AGE OF HIROSHI SEKIGUCHI

YOU MAKE ME SICK.
YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
...EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT IF SOMEONE PUSHED ME, I COULD FLY.
HEH HEH.
GOOD ENOUGH REASON, HUH?
IT'S HOT.

PANEL GRAFFITI [TOP, HORIZONTAL] LIFE IS FILLED WITH PAIN AND VALLEYS
[VERTICAL] THE AGE OF HIROSHI SEKIGUCHI



PANEL 1 GRAFFITI [ON RIGHT WALL, TOP TO BOTTOM] HIROSHI IKUSHIMA [NAME OF BOY]
YAMATO SAKURA-JAPANESE SAYING MEANING "THE SPIRIT OF JAPAN" [LEFT WALL] BEAUTY BUREAU
PANEL 2 GRAFFITI [RIGHT WALL] THE PURE LAND CUM MARUSASU [LEFT OF KISS] GAMBLE

PANEL 5 GRAFFITI [RIGHT TO LEFT] SAFETY FIRST [BOLD FONT] MASTURBATION SOCIETY
[FAR LEFT] HAPPENS ALL THE TIME

PANEL 5 POPSICLE STICK LOSER

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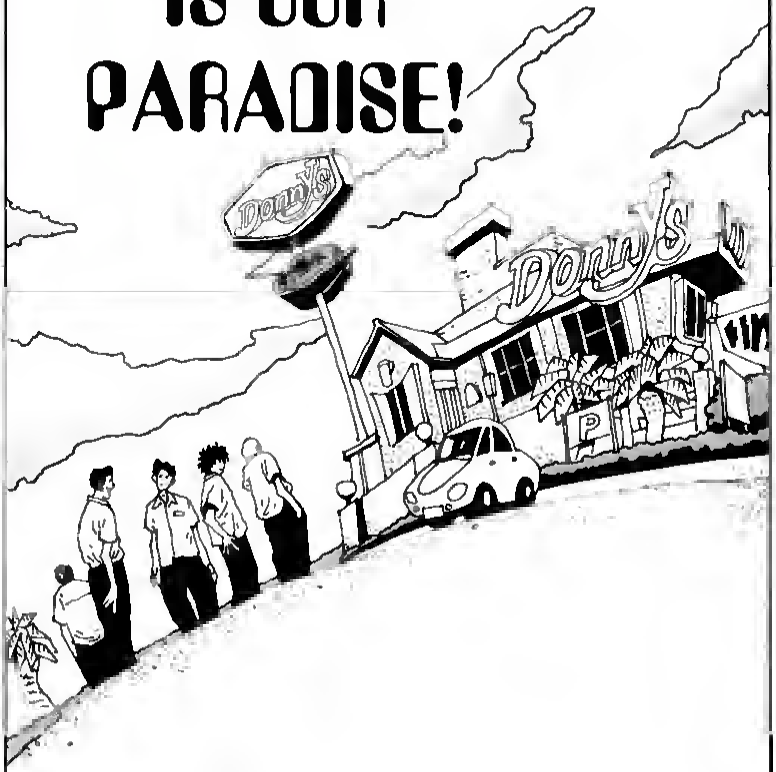
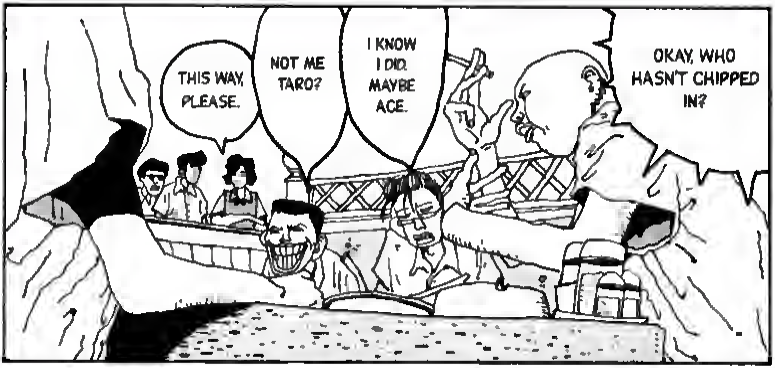
THE FAMILY RESTAURANT IS OUR PARADISE!

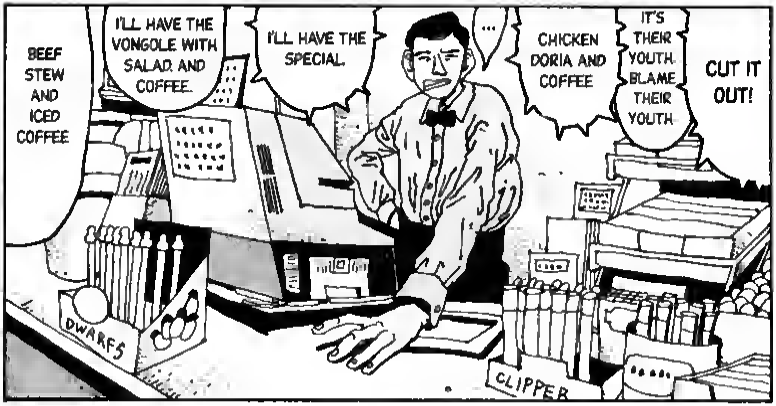


SIGNAGE: OPEN EVERY DAY

NOT ENOUGH..
..382¥ SHORT.
SHITHEAD.
HI THERE.
CASTER
TABLE FOR TWO?


THIS WAY, PLEASE.
NOT ME, TARO?
I KNOW I DID. MAYBE ACE.
OKAY, WHO HASN'T CHIPPED IN?

NO, I DIDN'T. MUST BE YOU WHO OWES.
HEE HEE
CUT IT OUT
I PAID! LEO SAW ME. RIGHT? RIGHT?


BEEF STEW AND ICED COFFEE
I'LL HAVE THE VONGOLE WITH SALAD AND COFFEE.
I'LL HAVE THE SPECIAL.
...
CHICKEN DORIA AND COFFEE
IT'S THEIR YOUTH. BLAME THEIR YOUTH.
CUT IT OUT!
DWARFS
CLIPPER

MICHAEL JACKSON CAME TO MY HOUSE THE OTHER DAY. MICHAEL. JACKSON.
?
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT..
ZOFI, YOUR HEAD IS SHORT OF BRAINS...
NOW I'M 421¥ SHORT HOW THE—?!
QUIT TALKING CRAP. I'M GETTING MIXED UP!
EVERY-THING'S MIXED UP.
IT'S ALL CRAP.
BROKE ALL OUR DISHES
IT GETS NASTY.
YOU KNOW HE HAS A PET? A CHIMP!
KEEK!

WE PLAYED SUPER MARIO.
MICHAEL JACKSON'S A GOOD SHOOTER.
WHADDYA MEAN?
SO TARO, I HEAR YOUR OLD MAN'S UP TO HIS NECK IN DEBT?
ガラガラ
CACKLING HENS.
DAMN...
ギャッ ギャッ ギャッ ナッ ャッ
NEW SUBJECT! EVER PLAYED SPIN THE BOTTLE?
YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT?
SO TARO, I HEAR YOU MAKE A LIVING BOOSTING KIDS FOR LUNCH MONEY.

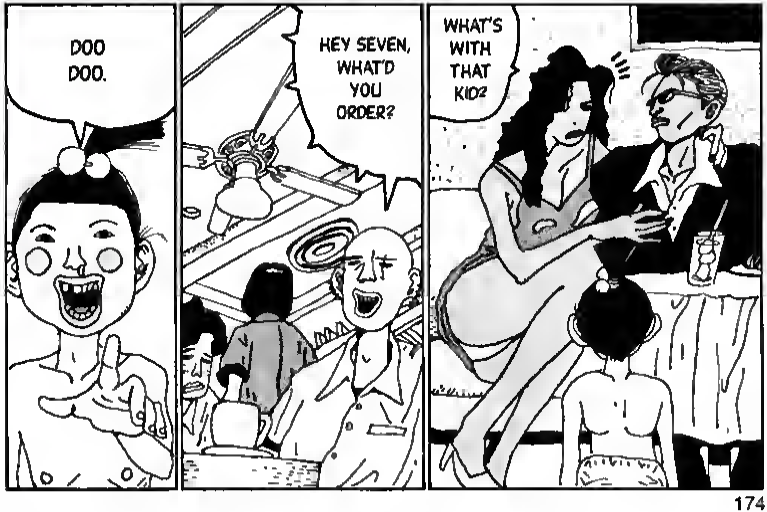
PANEL 2 FX BWAH HA HA HA HA HA! PANEL 3FX EEE!! HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!

A DELUXE PARFAIT.
WHO, ME?
HEY! WHAT'D YOU GET?!
HMM...
F
DON'T CHANGE IT!
CHANGING THE SUBJECT...
CUT IT OUT!
FROM NOW ON, WE CALL YOU "PARFAIT"
THE OTHER NIGHT I DREAMED THAT JIMI HENDRIX TOLD ME TO OPEN A TOFU SHOP.
DOO DOO.
I'LL SAY!
A CRIME. IT'S A CRIME.
WHAT, LEO? WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
HUH?
SHEESH.

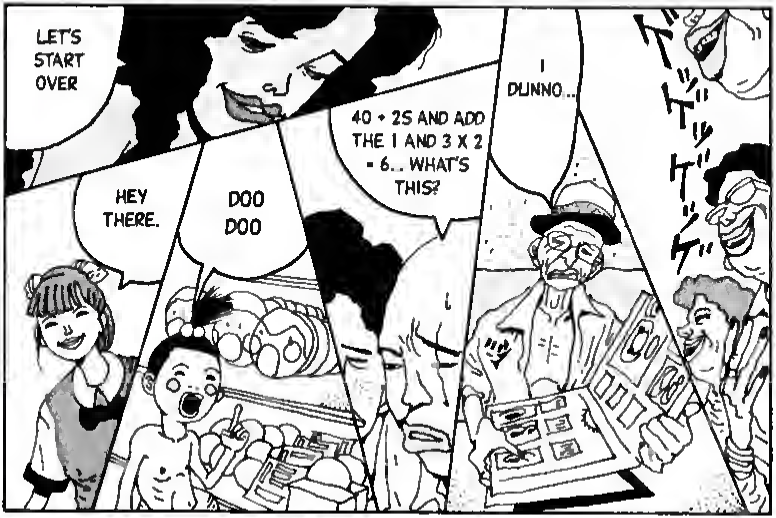
JIMI HENDRIX
OPEN A TOFU SHOP.
SO OPEN A TOFU SHOP!
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW!
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
W-WELL...
421¥...
WHAT 421¥?
WE'RE SHORT 421¥ ON THE TAB!
WHY MUST I ASSOCIATE WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU...?
FOR THE HOOTCHIE-COOTCHIE GIRLS.
OKAY, OKAY.

WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA START OVER?
HEE HEE HEE HEE
DAMMIT! NOW I HAVE TO START OVER!

LET'S START OVER.
YEAH.


DOO DOO.
HEY SEVEN, WHAT'D YOU ORDER?
WHAT'S WITH THAT KID?

BLAME IT ON THE CONSUMPTION TAX.
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT I HEARD THAT MAGI SHIRO IS REALLY RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT...
SO I'LL BORROW 10 FROM HERE.
UH... CAN'T TAKE 3 FROM S.

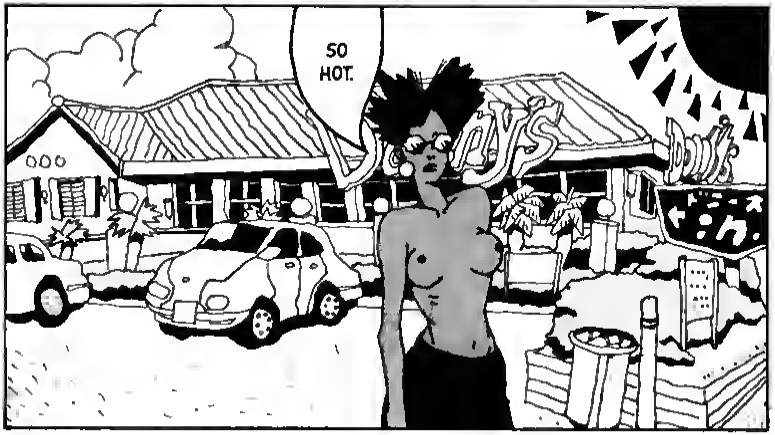


PANEL 1 NOTE: MAGI SHIRO IS A FAMOUS COMEDIAN/MAGICIAN. HE DOES TRICKS BUT SCREWS THEM UP ON PURPOSE.
PANEL 2 FX: OH! HO HO HO HO HO!

HE'S COMING TO JAPAN SOON. S'GONNA PERFORM WITH AT TAKAOZAN.
THE GOVERNMENT IS CORRUPT.
IF IT'S HENDRIX, IT'S GOTTA BE FOXY LADY.
THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WERE SCREWED BY THE LDP.
WILD THING? WHERE'S THAT ON THE MENU?
WILD THING.
LEO, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YEAH.
ZOFI, HOW COME YOU'RE BALD AS AN EAGLE?
THERE'S NO "WILD THING" ON THE MENU!

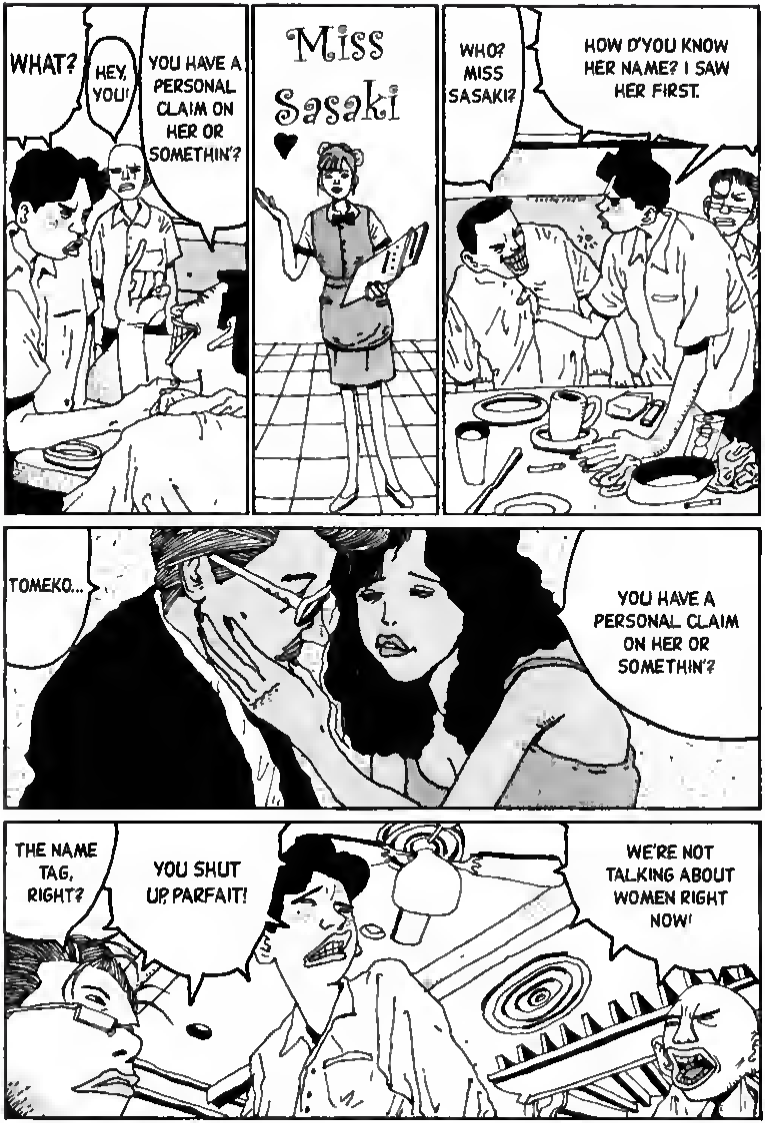
I SEE.
I SHAVE MY HEAD.
IT'S NOT HEREDITARY!
MUST BE HEREDITARY. HIS OLD MAN'S BALD.
I HAD THE SPECIAL.
WHAT DID YOU ORDER, STUPID?
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE HENDRIX SONG!

IS THERE A MEANING BEHIND YOUR BALDNESS? IS IT ANTI-ESTABLISH-MENT?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT TESTS? I DIDN'T HEAR.
THE SPECIAL? HEY!
WHAT?
YOU USE CLIPPERS?
I HEAR THEY'RE GOING TO POST THE COMPETENCY TEST SCORES


SO HOT.

DOO DOO· GIRL
DOO DOO
IF YOU'RE OVER, I'LL TAKE IT.
WHAT?! NOW IM 124¥ OVER? DAMMIT!
KEEP IT? SERIOUSLY, TARO. YOU'RE PATHETIC.
POSTING SCORES... THAT'S BAD.
WHAT?
SHUT UP!
IF YOU WERE A MAN, YOU'D WANNA GO...!
...
A DROWNING MAN WILL GRASP AT STRAWS.
SHUT UP.
HEY, HEY CMON.
YOU BASTARD!

ZOFI, QUIT STEPPING ON ME!
IT'S PICK, "QUIT PICKING ON ME."
I HATE POOR PEOPLE.
THEN GET LOST, BALDIE!
FINE!
YOUR OLD MAN MIGHT HANG HIMSELF.
YOU'D BETTER HURRY HOME.
MISS SASAKI, REFILL?
JUST A MINUTE, PLEASE.
WHAT WAS THAT?

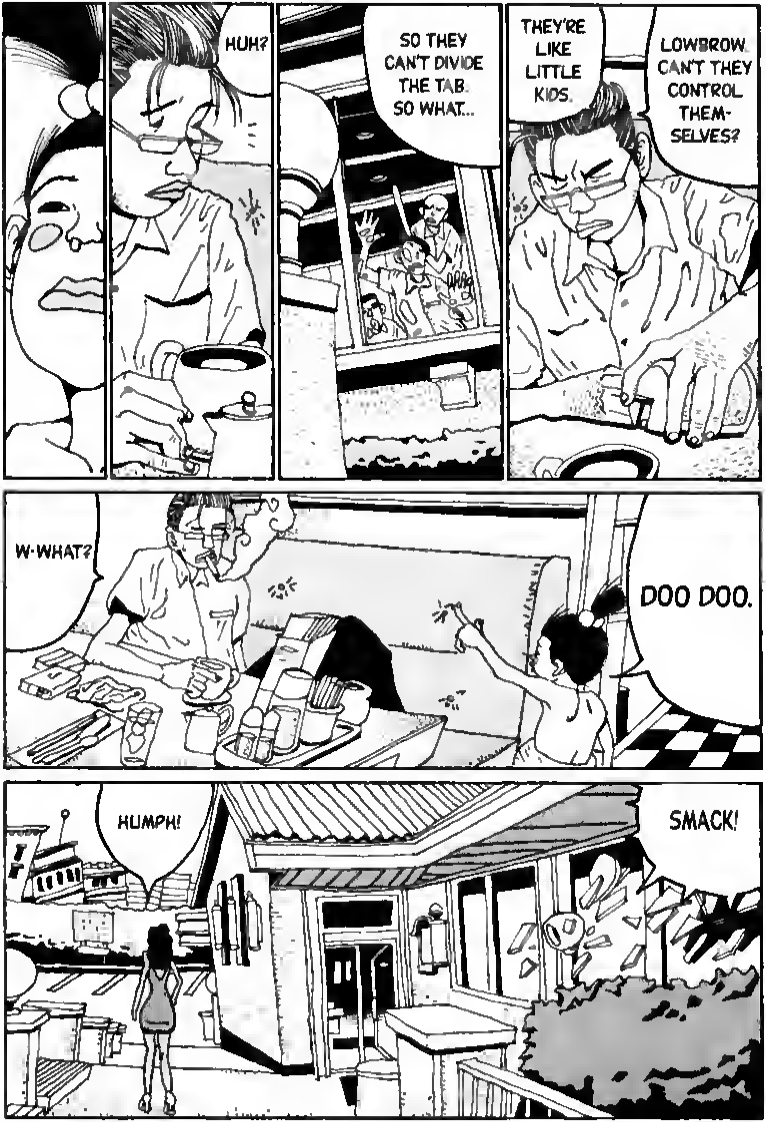

WHAT?
HEY, YOU!
YOU HAVE A PERSONAL CLAIM ON HER OR SOMETHIN'?
Miss Sasaki
WHO? MISS SASAKI?
HOW D'YOU KNOW HER NAME? I SAW HER FIRST.
TOMEKO...
YOU HAVE A PERSONAL CLAIM ON HER OR SOMETHIN'?
THE NAME TAG, RIGHT?
YOU SHUT UP, PARFAIT!
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT WOMEN RIGHT NOW!

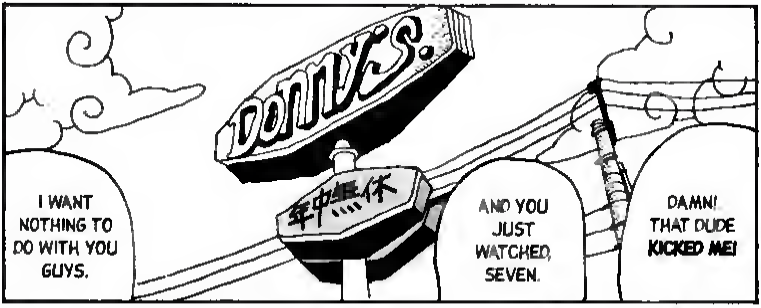
PANEL 2 FX CRACK

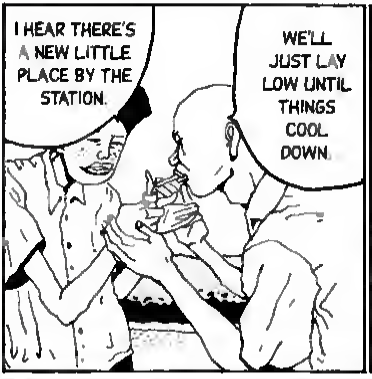
PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN. WE HAVE OTHER CUSTOMERS...
WHY YOU—!
CMON. BRING IT! I'M RIGHT HERE.
YEAH
I DON'T REMEMBER GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO TALK LIKE THAT, PUNK!
OH, YEAH?
WHAT OTHER CUSTOMERS? YOU'RE A CRAPPY LITTLE FAMILY RESTAURANT, NOT SOME FANCY BISTRO.
HAH!
GAH!
URGH!
WHAT?! YOU MANHANDLE YOUR CUSTOMERS IN THIS DIVE?
STAND UP!

PANEL 4 FX: KICK!

PANEL 1 FX: SMACK!
PANEL 3 FX: AHHH!


HUH?
SO THEY CAN'T DIVIDE THE TAB. SO WHAT...
THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE KIDS.
LOWBROW. CAN'T THEY CONTROL THEM-SELVES?
W-WHAT?
DOO DOO.
HUMPH!
SMACK!


DONNY'S.
年中無休
I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU GUYS.
AND YOU JUST WATCHED, SEVEN.
DAMN! THAT DUDE KICKED ME!


I HEAR THERE'S A NEW LITTLE PLACE BY THE STATION.
WE'LL JUST LAY LOW UNTIL THINGS COOL DOWN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TAB? HUH?
NOW, WE DON'T HAVE ANY-WHERE TO GO.

NOT TO CHANGE THE SUB-JECT...
I'M HUNGRY
LET'S GO TO MY PLACE
OKAY WE'LL TRY THERE NEXT TIME.

WE'RE SHORT... 262¥.
...
YOU SHITHEAD.
I'LL GO OVER YOUR ORDERS...

Blue Spring

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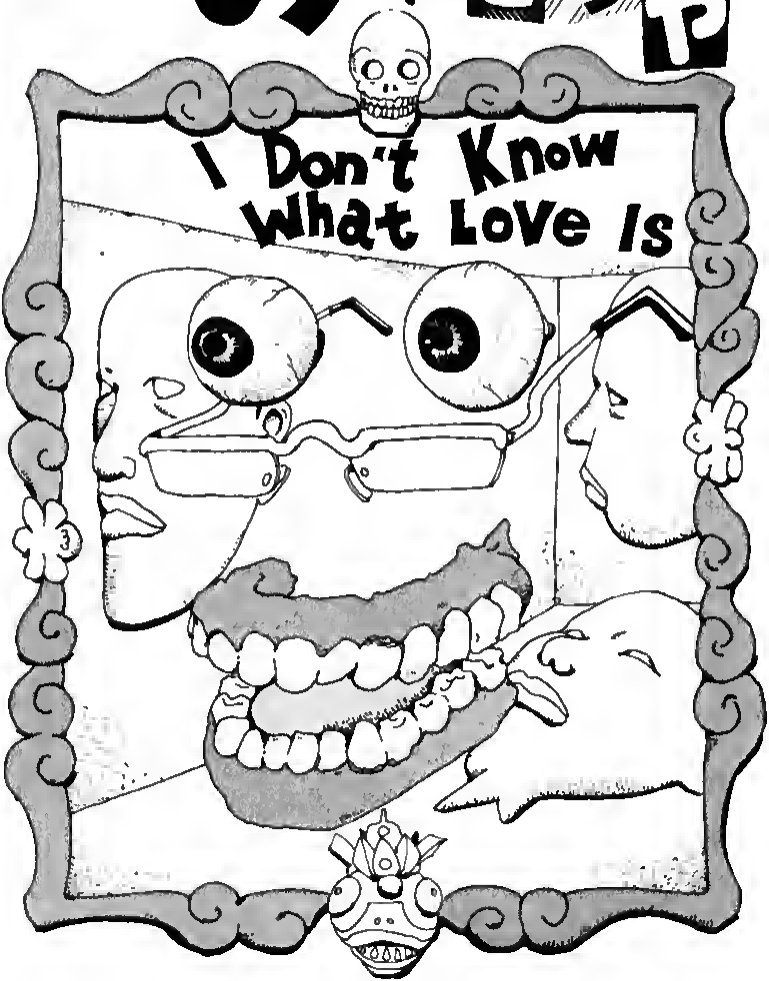
THIS IS BAD!

だみだこりゃ



WHAT?
SO HIRO..YOU FREE ON SUNDAY?
HEH HEH.
TEE HEE .
SCRATCH..
HUH?
I GOT TICKETS FOR THE BAND, DREAMS COME TRUE, AT THE YOKOHAMA ARENA. HEE HEE.

PANEL 2 FX KA-CHUG KA-CHUG

PANEL 1 FX: BWOON! CHUGGA CHUGGA PANEL 3 FX: CLANK CLANK CLANK PANEL 5 SIGNAGE: [ON DOOR] CAUTION
PANEL 7 FX: THUNK! PANEL 8 FX: CHUGGA CHUGGA

SMOKING'S BAD FOR YOU! HIRO, YOU LOOK LIKE A HOOD!
!!!
AHH!

WELL, IF YOU SMOKE, I WON'T LIKE YOU. I WON'T SEE YOU.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? CIGARETTES AREN'T ANYTHING.

GAH!!
HEH HEH HEH.
HEE HEE HEH.
BONK!
YOU!

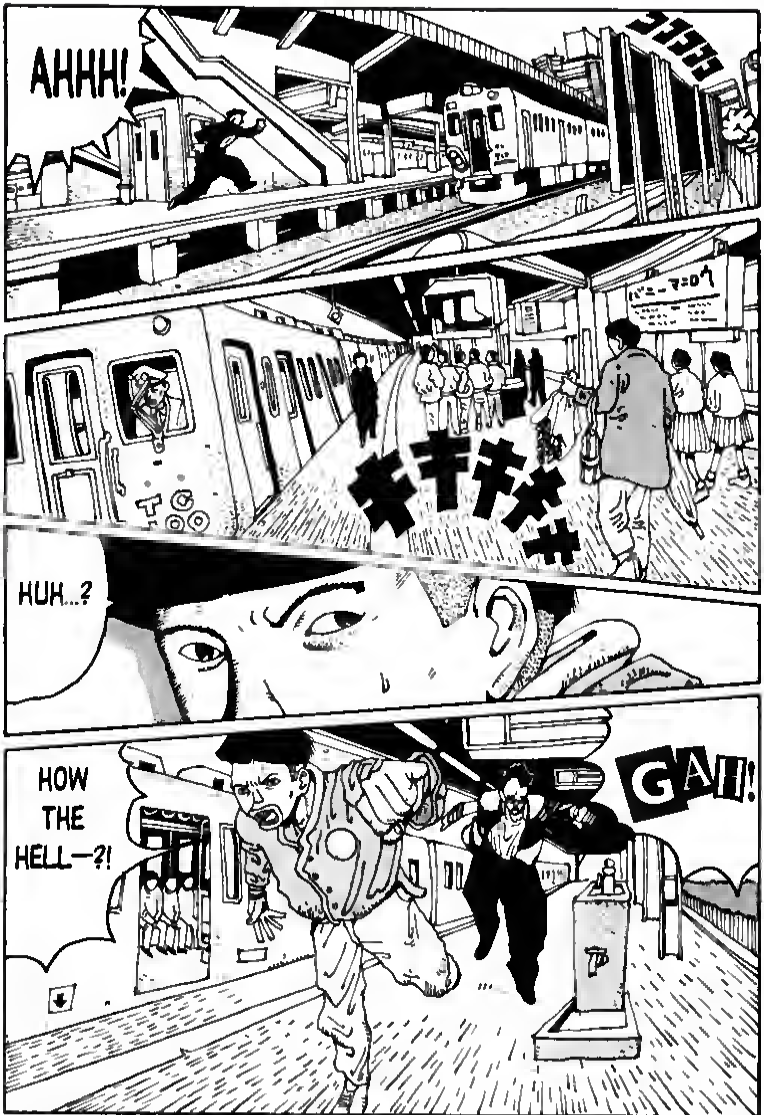
PANEL 2 FX: GAAH!

PANEL 1 FX: SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

PANEL 2 FX: CRASH
PANEL 3 FX: DING! DING!
PANEL 4 FX: SMACK

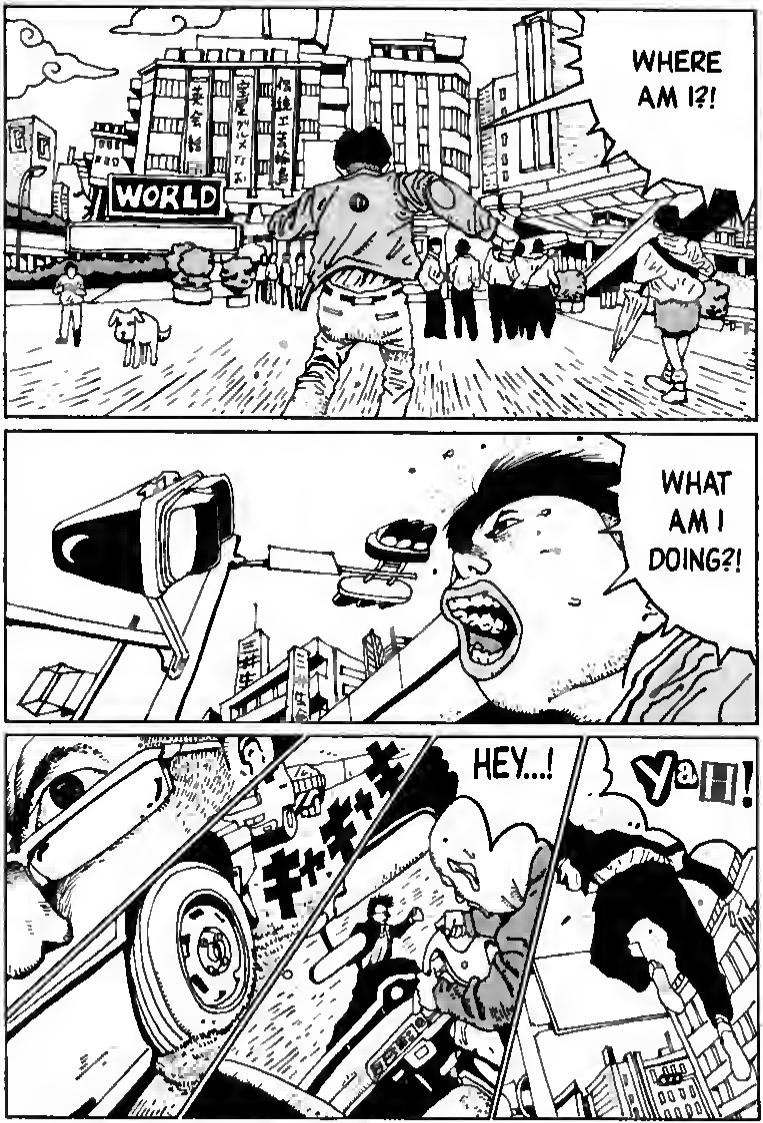
PANEL 2 FX CHUG CHUG CHUG PANEL 5 FX CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

PANEL 7 FX SCREEEECH

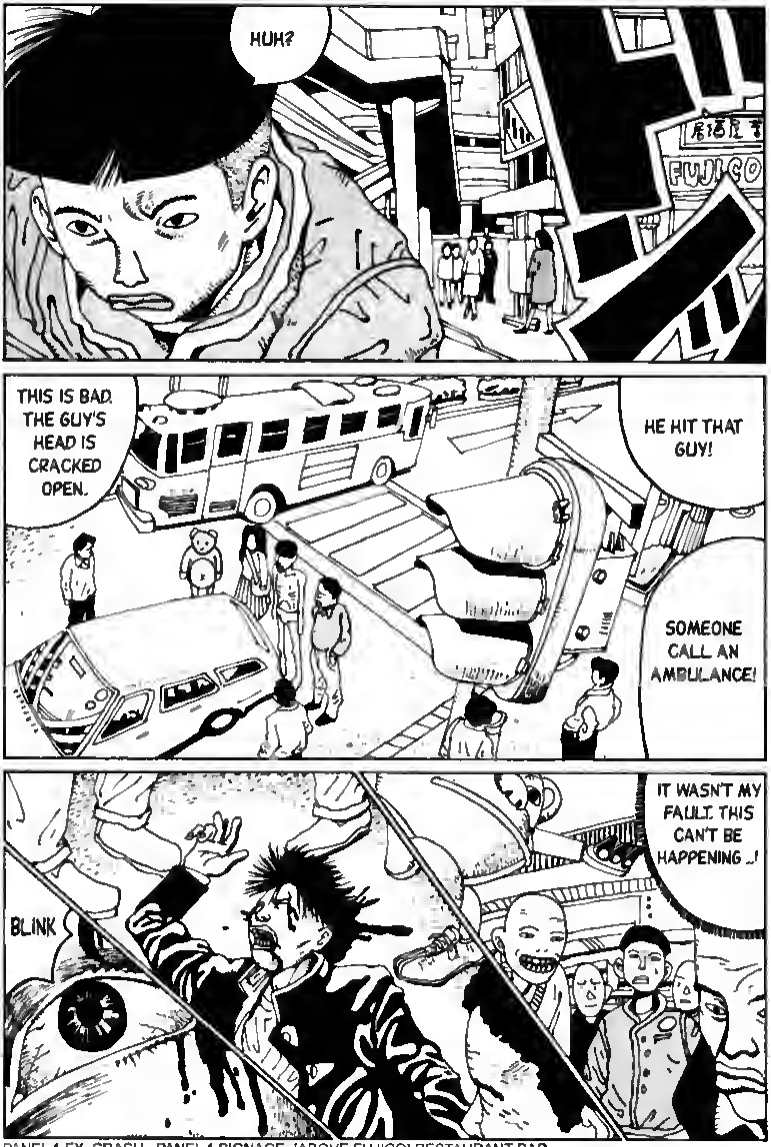


PANEL 1 FX CHUG CHUG
PANEL 2 FX SCREEEECH
PANEL 2 SIGNAGE [TOP RIGHT] BARRY MANILOW

PANEL 2 FX: BAM



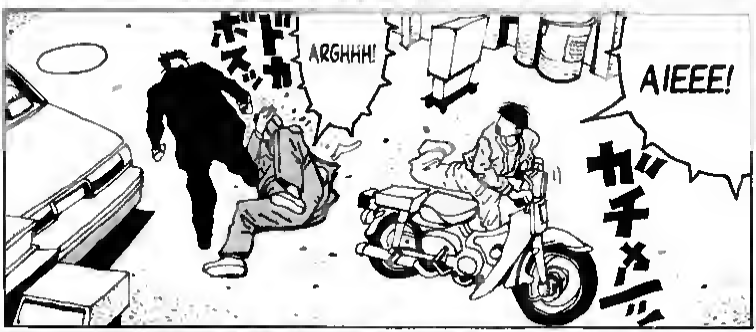
PANEL 1 SIGNAGE [RIGHT VERTICAL] TRADITIONAL ART WAJIMA LACQUER [CENTER VERTICAL] TAKARA YA GOURMET SHOP [LEFT VERTICAL] ENGLISH CONVERSATION PANEL 5 FX SKREEEEE!!

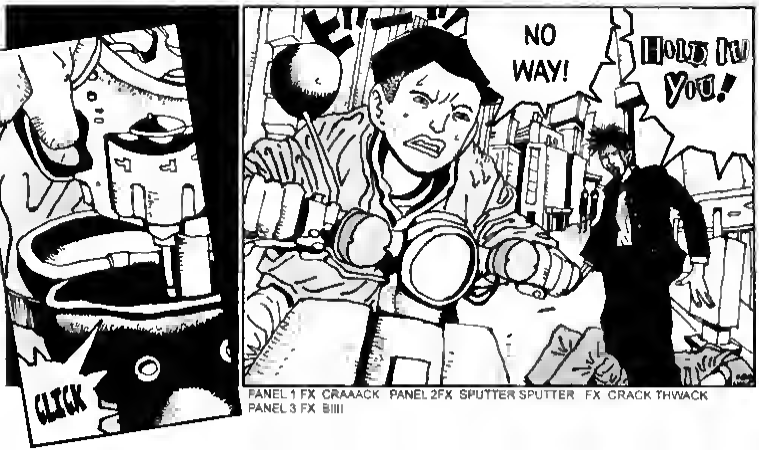

HUH?
FUJICO
THIS IS BAD. THE GUY'S HEAD IS CRACKED OPEN.
HE HIT THAT GUY!
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!
BLINK
IT WASN'T MY FAULT. THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING ..!

PANEL 1 FX CRASH PANEL 1 SIGNAGE [ABOVE FUJICO] RESTAURANT BAR
PANEL 5 FX BLINK

PANEL 1 FX: DASH
PANEL 2 FX: GAHH!

DAMMIT.
HE'S LATE...
ボ
ー
ル
GET LOST.
HAH! LOSER.
I HAD TO TRY THAT LINE.
WHAT'S A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHO?
BY HIM!
IM BEING CHASED.
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
CAN YOU HELP ME, SIR?
HEY?!
PANEL1FX BWOOOOOON



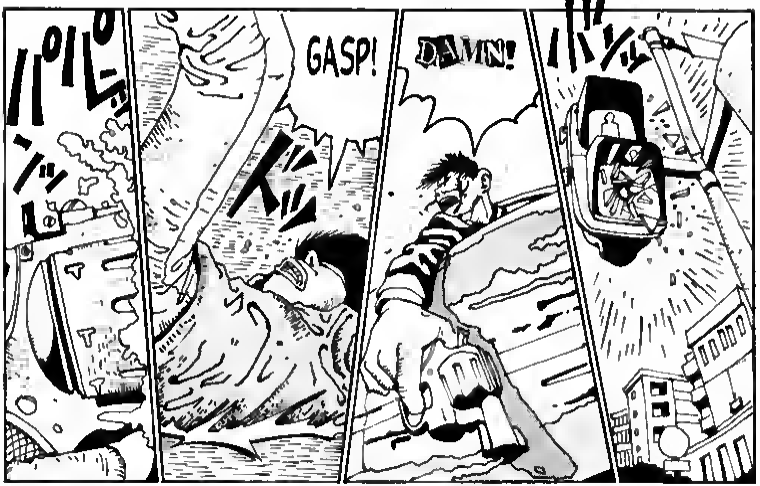


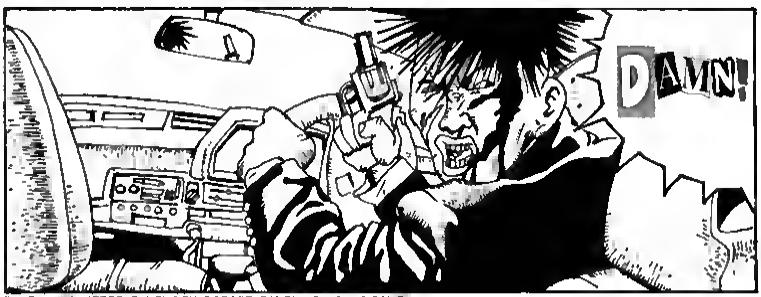
PANEL 1 FX CRAAACK PANEL 2FX SPUTTER SPUTTER FX CRACK THWACK
PANEL 3 FX BIIII

PANEL 1SIGNAGE HISATAKE [NAME OF BAR] PANEL 2 FX TUG PANEL 3 FX BRRRMM

I'M COMING.
南口本通り296
WAIT FOR ME, KEIKO!
ヒトトト
I HAD TO SAY THAT.
OH, YOU NOTICED.
SMIL
PRINCESS
NICE CAR!!
ﾌﾞﾛﾛﾛ

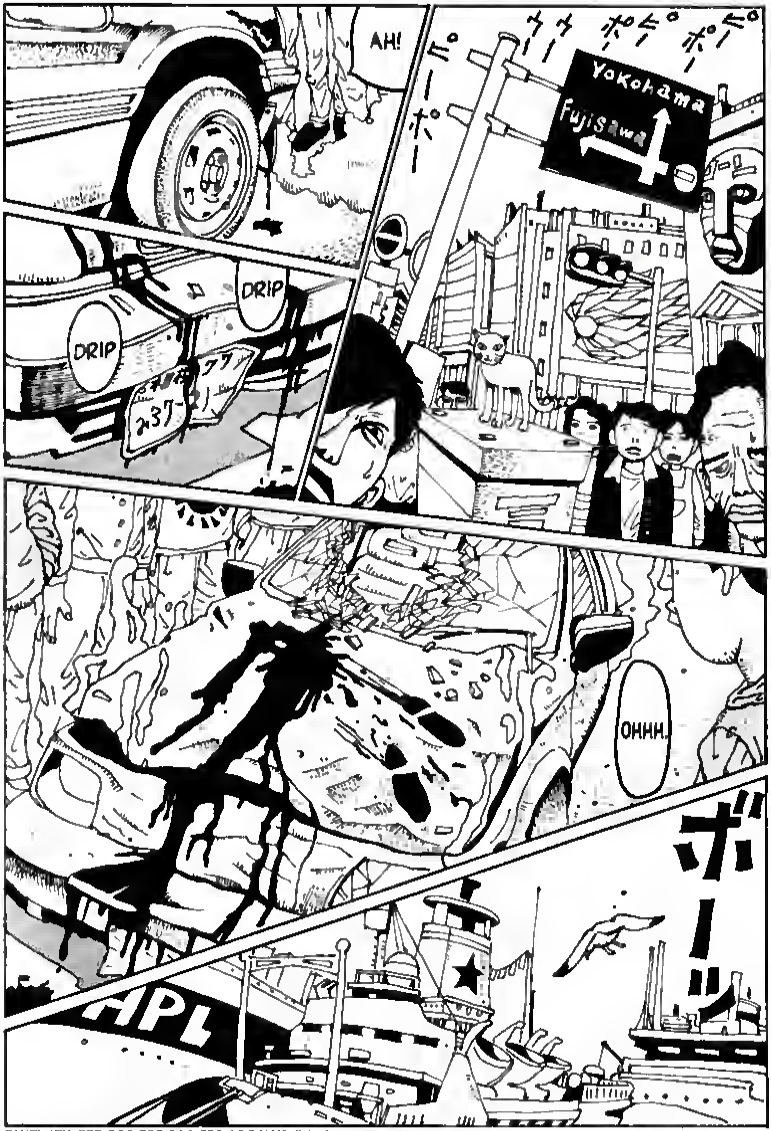
PANEL 1SIGNAGE [LICENSE PLATE] SHINAGAWA 54 NE17 71
PANEL 4 FX SPUTTER SPUTTER
FX VROOM PANEL 5 FX. BANG



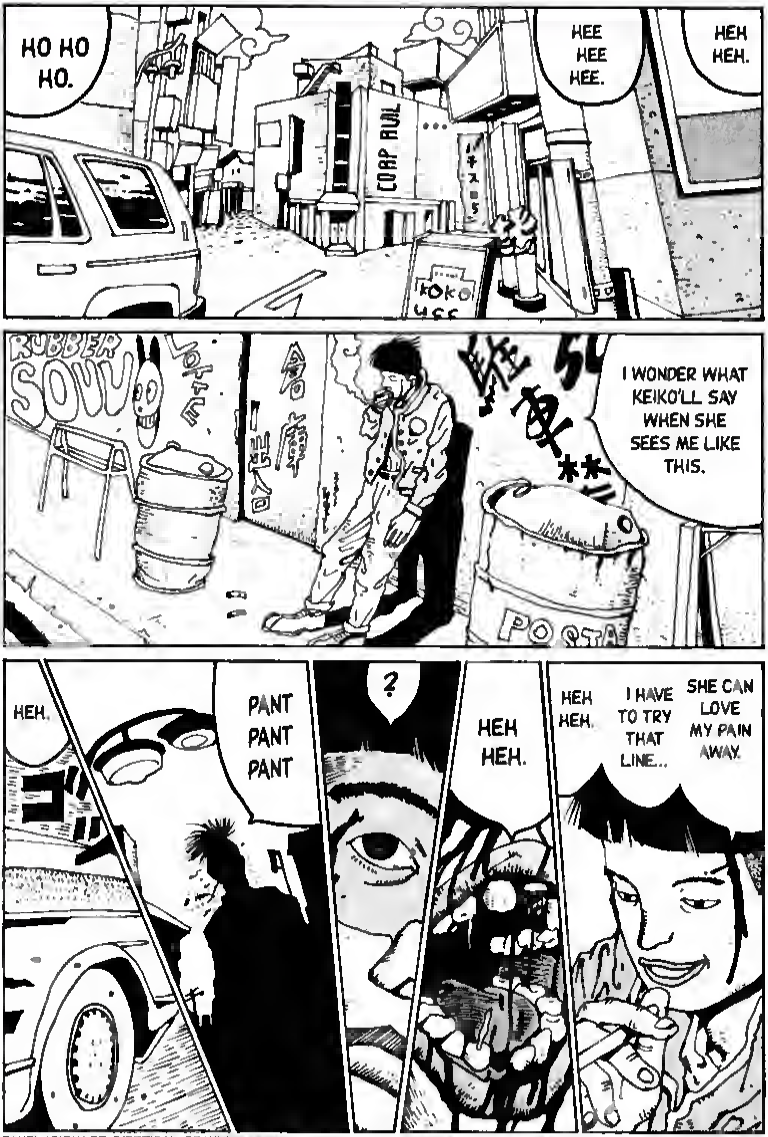


PANEL 1 FX: SHATTER. PANEL 3 FX: SCRAPE. PANEL 4 FX: BANG BANG

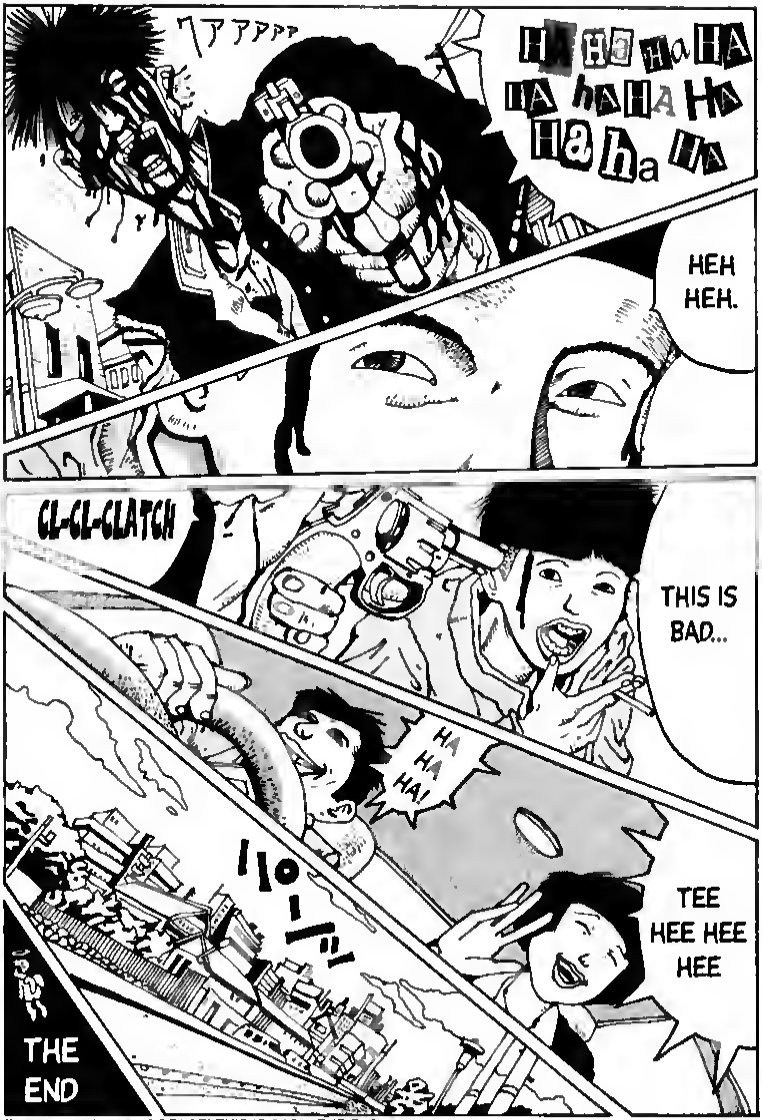
PANEL 3 FX: CRASH. PANEL 3 SIGNAGE: [TELEPHONE POLE: PARTIAL] ALL JAPAN



PANEL 1FX EEE OOO EEE OOO EEE-OOO [AMBULANCE] PANEL 3 SIGNAGE [LICENSE PLATE] AICHI – MI237-21
PANEL5 FX. BWOOOOOOON



PANEL 1SIGNAGE [VERTICAL GRAY] PACHINKO 5 PANEL 2 WALL WRITING: [RIGHT] NO PARKING [DOOR]WALL WRITING WAREHOUSE ENTRANCE PANEL 7 FX SCREECH



TITLE: [AT BOTTOM OF PAGE] THIS IS BAD – THE END
PANEL 1 FX: AIM
PANEL 5 FX: BANG

BLUE SPRING

AFTER THOUGHTS

When I was in high school, I was not the type you would label, "delinquent." But I had friends who would gather on the school roof after class. They would demand that I take their photos with graffiti such as "Yoroshiku" and "Good Fighter" in the background.

Without exception, each one of them loved having his photo taken. But when, out of consideration for them, I'd warn that "the angle was bad," or "the light was reversed," they'd tell me to hurry it up, and produce wide smiles - their front teeth rotten from huffing thinner.

1993
February
19

In retrospect, I realize that for these youth, for whom the present was already the past, the camera was an important item. But at that time, when their actions didn't quite make sense, I was strangely attracted to them.

Taiyo
Matsumoto

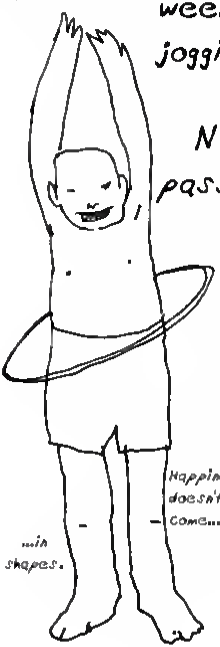
They answered to reason with their fists and never questioned their excessive passions. Their frankness and their sense of being true to themselves won me over. They were my heroes.

Spring will come again.

Five years have passed since it was first published.

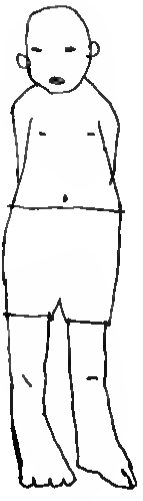
There aren't many opportunities to see these heroes of my past and I've lost touch with many of them. But even these fellows whose front teeth were rotted from thinner—today, they'll say things like, "My daughter's physical fitness tournament is next week. I'm thinking of taking up jogging. Heh-heh."

1998
October 13,
Rain
Taiyo
Matsumoto



No matter how passionate you were, no matter how much your blood boiled, I believe youth is a blue time. Blue - that indistinct blue that paints the town moments before the sun rises.

Winter is coming.



Blue Spring

100% ILLEGAL MANGA

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